



Tekulima Nentfutfuko

Agriculture and Development

1st Quarter 2013/14



HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2
Premier Applauds Dardla For Work Done In Marapyane

Page 3
Mec discusses ME and MESP with Traditional leaders

Page 6-9
Policy and Budget Speech 2013/14

Page 10
Cooperative Bank For Emerging Farmers On The Pipeline

Page 11
There Are Benefits In Farming – Says Young Farmer

Page 13
Marapyane Farmers And Cooperatives Opens Doors For Lca College Students

Page 15
Protecting Children And Women Is Our Responsibility



dardla

Department:
Agriculture, Rural Development
and Land Administration
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT





PREMIER APPLAUDS DARDLA FOR WORK DONE IN MARAPYANE

Nelly Mashabane

mashabanenb@mpg.gov.za



MEC VS Siwela and Premier David Mabuza at a public participation gathering in Lefisoane near Marapyane

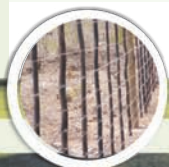
Mpumalanga Premier, Honourable DD Mabuza recently took his cabinet to Dr JS Moroka during an Outreach Programme to monitor progress on various CRDP projects funded and headed by different departments. The Cabinet Outreach in Marapyane and surrounding areas, which saw the Premier and MEC's attending to different projects and meetings, was held on the 14 – 16 May 2013.

During this outreach the Honourable Premier visited two of DARDLA's projects: the Lekgwarape Livestock Co-operative and Senotlelo Sunflower Cooperative. Premier Mabuza was so impressed with the impact done by DARDLA programmes like Masibuyele Emasimini and Masibuyele Esibayeni in changing the lives of the people in that area, such that he had to declare the DARDLA as the best amongst other departments with its work in Dr JS Moroka Municipality.

"The Marapyane College was started from scratch; this year it had its second intake and we are all witnesses that operations here are running very well," said the

Honourable Premier. He went on to congratulate and appreciate the effort and hard work done by former Dardla MEC, now MEC for Health and Social Development Mrs Candith Mashego-Dlamini, and the current MEC Ms Violet Siwela and the HOD, Ms Nelsiwe Sithole. He said they ensured that officials at the district and head office were committed to their work in ensuring that government delivers on its promises.

Premier Mabuza outlined the success of livestock and farming co-operatives, but went on to voice his concerns that Bakery, Sewing and other youth-headed Co-operatives were not doing so convincingly. The beneficiaries in both Legwarapa and Senotlelo Cooperatives expressed their gratitude to the Premier for coming to interact with them. The Premier advised them to concentrate on becoming commercial, and start exporting their produce as soon as the planned Fresh Produce Market starts operating.





MEC DISCUSSES ME AND MESP WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Bheki Nyathikazi

nyathikazibw@mpg.gov.za



MEC Ms VS Siwela addressing Amakhosi at Cogta's Disaster Centre.

A call has been made to Traditional Leaders to ensure that their role in their respective jurisdiction is acknowledged and respected by their subjects. This call was made by Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration MEC, Ms Violet Siwela during a meeting with Traditional Leaders from Ehlanzeni. The meeting, held at COGTA's Disaster Centre outside Nelspruit on the 17th May 2013, was aimed at engaging Traditional Leaders on Masibuyele Emasimini (ME) and Masibuyele Esibayeni (MESP) programmes; listen to their concerns regarding the two programmes and discuss ways that will see Emakhosi playing a role in ensuring a success of the two programmes.

At the meeting, MEC Siwela highlighted what she referred to as "challenges" that were still facing Masibuyele Esibayeni. Amongst others, she mentioned that the movement of animals is also dependent on the climate; also noting the difference in climate between the Lowveld and the Highveld, which are completely

incomparable. The MEC made emphasis on the criteria being followed for those who apply for both the Nguni and the Bull and Heifer, and also explained the funding model. She told the Traditional Leaders that an applicant, who must be South African, needs to have 600ha of land to qualify for the Nguni project which should not be mixed with any other breed, while 350ha of land is needed to qualify for a Bull and 25 Heifers. The MEC also mentioned the small stock that can also be applied for.

On Masibuyele Emasimini, the Traditional Leaders voiced their concerns to the MEC telling her about late arrival of tractors in their areas, and that they feel disregarded as according to customs, ploughing in areas under tribal authorities should start at a Chief's Palace, then his subjects can follow. They called for their positions as Chiefs to be recognised and respected in society. "Surely we are losing ground here as Traditional Leaders, our position in society is no longer existing. We are the last to be considered by the department for Masibuyele Emasimini, and that does not go down with us, we are being sidelined," said Chief Mahlalela from Mbuzini.

The Honourable MEC took time to explain the two programmes to the Chiefs; and of course after acknowledging the challenges, she called on the Amakhosi to play contribute in finding solutions to the problems. "We expect to see Amakhosi playing a role in helping government in encouraging your subjects to form Cooperatives, because this is one of government's response to poverty. Through cooperatives, your own subjects stand to benefit as well once our planned Fresh Produce Market started operating," said MEC Siwela. Similar meetings between the MEC and Amakhosi from the Gert Sibande and Nkangala regions are on the pipeline.





DIPALISENG MUNICIPALITY NOW A CRDP SITE

Andile Shabangu

shabangua@mpg.gov.za



HOD, the Mayor of Dipaliseng and other stakeholders during the first CRDP meeting in Dipaliseng

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) in Mpumalanga has grown in leaps and bounds since its inception in Mkhondo Municipality in 2009, thanks mainly to the tireless efforts of a dedicated coordinating team led by Ms Nelisiwe Sithole, the provincial Head of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla).

Statistical analysis of the socio economic profile of the 18 municipalities in Mpumalanga dictated that priority in terms of rural development would be given to 7 of the poorest municipalities. However, concerted efforts from various quarters within the Dipaleseng Municipality calling for the declaration of their municipality as an eight CRDP site finally came to fruition after the Mpumalanga Cabinet ultimately proclaimed Dipaleseng as a CRDP municipality.

According to the Medium Term Strategic Framework which sets out priorities that underpin the strategic direction of SA's government, CRDP is a strategic intervention aimed at improving the quality of life of about 10-15 million South Africans, whose socio-economic profile is characterised by poverty and under development.

CRDP was first launched and piloted in Mkhondo Municipality in 2009. In 2010 the programme was rolled out to all 19 wards in that municipality, and to six other

municipalities which are Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr Pixley ka-Isaka Seme, Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani.

During her presentation in the inaugural meeting of the local Council of Stakeholders in Dipaliseng held on the 11th April 2013, Ms Sithole highlighted that the same variables which led to the declaration of the 7 municipalities as CRDP sites were prevalent in Dipaliseng. Her presentation reflected on the levels of poverty, unemployment, income per capita as some of the social ills that the municipality was still battling with. According to Ms Sithole, the CRDP concept enables rural areas to, on their own, to provide better schools, clinics, recreational facilities and roads. The programme is people-centred, with local communities represented in the Council of Stakeholders.

During the Council of Stakeholders meeting in Dipaliseng, Dardla's Director for CRDP Mr Mandaa Dagada made a presentation on the CRDP Business Plan for the 2013/2014 financial year.





LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT (MASIBUYELE ESIBAYENI) PROGRAMME

Nomalanga Mbuyane

nambuyane@mpg.gov.za



Masibuyele Esibayeni (MESP) is aimed at improving the performance parameters of the production stock through provision of specific genetic pool by supporting emerging farmers with quality sires and dams. Farmers get well equipped with dam lines, to introduce a similar bloodline sire for enhancing the performance of their dams that would be depicted in their progenies. Masibuyele Esibayeni was first piloted in 2011/2012 in all the seven CRDP municipalities, namely: Bushbuckridge, Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr JS Moroka, Mkhondo, Nkomazi, Dr Pixley ka-Isaka Seme and Thembisile Hani.

During financial year 2012/13, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) had set aside R5,5 million for the Nguni Cattle Breeding Project, in conjunction with the University of Limpopo and the IDC, which contributed R2,5 million towards the re-introduction of these indigenous breed. Qualifying farmers are loaned 30 Heifers and 1 Bull, as a nucleus for production and will pass a new stock to others beneficiaries after a period of five years. The Dardla further established the Livestock Improvement Programme (inclusive of Nguni as a Project) under the auspices of Bull and Heifer, Ram and Ewe and Buck and Doe, supporting farmers at the ratio of 1 sire: 25 dams per specific project.

The major challenge facing the emerging and communal cattle farmer is the lack of supply of good quality production stock due to lack of financial resources to procure quality breeding sires. This problem leads to a serious livestock mismanagement that normally end up in inbreeding and stunted growth – a breeding system that is not promoted

as it leads to loss of performance vigour.

Despite the surmountable achievements the MESP Programme has attained, there were challenges as well. During 2012/13 winter season, the province experienced heavy ambient temperature drops that resulted in animals losing lots of their body reserves, ultimately suffered unabated hypothermia mortalities in areas around Msukaligwa and Thembisile Hani Local Municipalities. At the time, there was a sudden drop in the nutritional status of the grasslands due to nutrients leaching, thus the grass sward cracked and lost nutrients much earlier than anticipated. A sudden spread of the tick-borne disease such as Red-Water, also resulted in sudden unexpected mortalities.

The department came up with numerous intervention systems to deal and counteract all possible future risks and challenges that the MESP Programme had come across in the past, at both the Micro and Macro levels:

- The application of the effective Culling and Selection Methodologies through the development of the Livestock Disposal and Acquisition Strategy and Plan; and
- Development of a activity schedule for on farm systems maintenance;

The MESP Programme's vision is to create an environment for all livestock farmers to meaningfully participate in both the red and white meat industries, with the ultimate aim of improving the provincial rural economy. Emerging farmers who have already benefitted from it are applauding its contributions in changing their farming lives.





Policy & Budget Speech 2013/14



Policy and budget speech for 2013/14 presented by
Mec for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land
Administration, Ms VS Siwela.

In this financial year the department will among other things prioritise reaching out to the rural communities as a coordinating department for the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, and outline programmes in line with the Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy.

The department is set to achieve the following planned service delivery targets with the allocated budgets for the 2013/14 financial year:

Administration and Good Governance

The department was involved in service delivery

improvement assessments and was found to be among the top performing departments on implementation of service standards and service-delivery improvement plans. This department also awarded 100 internships to young job seekers in order for them to gain the necessary work experience to be employed. This indicates the commitment of management to good governance and improved service delivery. The department also commits itself to payment of service providers within 30 days.

Sustainable Resource Management

The section will continue to provide agriculture infrastructure development to farming communities. In this financial year, it will create a further 825 green jobs by controlling 920 hectares under invader plants as well as improving 2200 hectares through conservation measures. The programme also envisages teaching primary school pupils to conserve the environment for sustainable production. The programme targets 19 schools from across the province to become involved in the junior land care programme.

Food security (Masibuyele Emasimini Programme)

In the coming year, a total of 113 200 hectares for subsistence and land reform farmers will be ploughed and planted through the newly formed departmental partnerships with farmer organisations such as the African Farmers Association of South Africa (Afasa). A budget of R107 million will be set aside to ensure that Masibuyele Emasimini is intensified, where 70% of the target will be done through secondary cooperatives in





various municipalities as part of cooperative development, and only 30% of the work is going to be implemented by the existing service providers.

Livestock improvement (Masibuyele Esibayeni Programme)

In looking forward, the department will provide 25 breeding sets to the bull-and-heifer programme as well as the Nguni project. In addition it will also provide 17 breeding sets of goats and 13 breeding sets of sheep. It will also provide 32 breeding sets of pigs and support dairy development by providing 6 sets of dairy cows to livestock farmers in the province. It is envisaged that the above-mentioned interventions will create 300 EPWP jobs through improving fencing of grazing camps and animal-handling facilities.

Our veterinary services continued their efforts to promote human and animal health through the delivery of a comprehensive veterinary service. This includes, among others, the vaccination of animals against diseases of economic and zoonotic importance, as well as the issuing of permits in order to regulate the movement of animals locally, nationally and for export purposes.

In this regard, we will conduct 821 858 animal vaccinations and dip more than 4 102 448 animals for disease control in compliance with the Animal Health Act of 2002 and its regulations.

As a continuation of our effort to ensure the elevation of veterinary clinical services in the province, and further to ensure efficient delivery of this service through centralisation and cost curtailment, we have set aside an amount of R4,2 million for the equipping and establishment of the Marapyane Veterinary Clinic, which is situated in the grounds of the Lowveld College of Agriculture, in Dr JS Moroka Municipality.

Technology Research and Development

Moving forward, the department will commence with the first phase of the development of the market which will mainly cover bulk infrastructure such as water, electricity, sewerage, and road networks.

A further R26 million has been earmarked for the development of the Agri-hubs in the eight CRDP municipalities; in return this will ensure that smallholder farmers are organised into primary and secondary cooperatives which participate within the market and the opportunities it creates.

The opening of Marapyane College of Agriculture continues to be one of our key strategic focus areas as a province. We have spent over R50 million in construction, skills development, cooperatives development and more.

Further to this the department has also strengthened the extension and advisory services to ensure that our farmers get the necessary support by making it a programme that is led by a senior manager.

It is planned that the component would support 7 634 small-holder farmers with advice and holding 56 farmers a day while supporting 143 functional commodity groups. The department continued with its interventions of revitalising ailing farms. Among the irrigation systems revitalised, includes the completion of champagne irrigation project in Bushbuckridge, the revitalisation of Giba banana plantation, the installation of irrigation centre pivots, erection of four irrigation pivots and complete removal of tree stumps in Coromandel.

Further to this the department also completed irrigation projects to boost sugar, banana and citrus production.

One maize mill has been completed. The implementation of the above-mentioned infrastructure projects resulted in the creation of 1 800 job opportunities.

The department will further spend R315 million over





the MTEF period in support of land reform farms where five agroprocessing facilities, 23 irrigation projects and systems, and 22 livestock production facilities, will be developed. Further to this nine poultry value chains will be developed and 128 agricultural water provision projects established.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

The training of the local people on construction trades has put our people in a position to contribute to the development of infrastructure projects, in which we have witnessed some of them already getting jobs in bricklaying, plumbing, electricity installation, carpentry and plastering during the building of the houses, schools and clinics.

The improvement of education facilities such as school renovations and construction has resulted in the improvement of even the matric pass rate. In Mkhondo for example, where two boarding schools have been built in Donkerhoek and Amsterdam, the pass rate has improved significantly.

This is also the experience in other municipalities like Nkomazi, which took the lead in the whole province. In pursuit of improving health facilities in rural areas, eight CHCs have been built in CRDP municipalities and 41 non-profit organisations have been supported, 422 early childhood centres and 36 youth centres have been provided as we restore social welfare of our rural communities.

In Dr JS Moroka livestock farmers received 254 calves as the result of the bull-and-heifer initiative. This gave farmers hope and they started to sell - turning them from traditional farmers into business farmers.

Moving forward a total amount R2,1 billion has been set aside collectively by provincial departments towards the realisation of vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all.

Cooperative Development

More than 200 hundred farmer cooperatives have been registered, and they have further strengthened their institutional arrangement by registering 10 secondary cooperatives in eight municipalities. These secondary cooperatives are now ready to start supplying schools as from June 1, 2013.

Value Addition and Processing

Grain mills facilities were built for farmers cooperatives in grain-producing areas. To address these challenges, the department has appointed through transparent procurement processes an experienced and financially capable strategic partner, Kamkhulu Farming Projects JV, to partner with the grain mills cooperatives.

In terms of the Mbombela Poultry Project it is worth mentioning that poultry farmers who are struggling to produce chickens due to high mortality rate within the first two weeks, will be assisted through the appointment of an experienced mentor.

Participating farmers will attend the national Avi Africa poultry conference in Midrand this month as a capacity building intervention and to link them with the latest innovations in poultry production. With this project, the department will be placing the unemployed graduates who will start at the mentor's farm for practical exercise of producing the full chicken cycle.

Land and Agrarian Reform

The province has placed land reform as a priority that could stimulate the creation of new needed jobs as outlined in the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Programme (MEGDP).

As part of turning around the tide on land reform, the department has planned to host a land summit at the beginning of the second quarter. It is during this summit that inputs of various stakeholders such





as cooperatives of land reform farmers, DRDLR, Organized Agric, Farmers Unions & Associations, COGTA (municipalities and traditional leaders), development banks and other financial institutions will be solicited with a view to developing an implementable strategy of land reform in the province. In responding to this daunting challenge, the department will appoint 150 unemployed agricultural graduates from our province in various landreform farms to ensure that these are turned around and become productive while the graduates acquire farming skills.

Improvement of Spatial Planning and Tenure Security

The department supported all 18 municipalities to ensure that rural development is included in the integrated development plans and spatial development frameworks of the municipalities to safeguard food security and enhance economic development in all our municipalities.

The planning of Agri-villages will offer security of tenure as well as the required supportive land uses to their residents.

The department continues to support the development of three Agri villages at Jabulani, Rustplaas and Maphepheni by assisting in the facilitation of infrastructure development that would decrease the vulnerability of the rural poor, which is an important objective of the comprehensive rural development programme.

The department continued its support towards tenure upgrading.

A total of 871 title deeds were issued at Matsulu C and Mashishing Ext 8, while 3 313 erven are in progress at Kwaggafontein A. In terms of town establishment a total of 1 091 sites were provided for development at Emthonyeni, Machadodorp and Sakhelwe.

Once the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill is passed by parliament during 2013, the provincial planning legislation will be finalised.

In support of the comprehensive rural development programme, plans for three new agri villages will be developed for areas in Mkhondo and Chief Albert Luthuli Municipalities.

As part of our tenure upgrading programme delivery of title deeds will continue at Matsulu-C while processes to allow for the delivery of 3 313 title deeds at Kwaggafontein-A will be concluded and townships establishment projects will be performed in five areas in Bushbuckridge Municipality.

2013/14 budget of R1,05 billion, which is allocated in nine programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Administration, R129,8 million

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management R57,74 million

Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development Services R491,54 million

Programme 4: Veterinary Services R107,1 million

Programme 5: Technology, Research, and Development R37,06 million

Programme 6: Agriculture Economics R54,31 million

Programme 7: Structured Agriculture Training R63,56 million

Programme 8: Rural Development R86,50 million

Programme 9: Land administration R 22,44 million.

The budget will enable the department to drive the programmes that constitute the work of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration.





COOPERATIVE BANK FOR EMERGENING FARMERS ON THE PIPELINE

Celani Ndude

ndudewc@mpg.gov.za



AFASA President Job Mthombeni delivering a presentation to farmers on the establishment of the cooperative bank

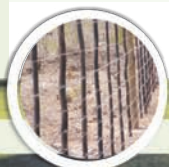
Ehlanzeni South District - The African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA) announced that a Cooperative Bank for farmers was on the pipeline following several meetings conducted in the districts to mobilise all farmers and cooperatives to join hands and be agents of change in establishing such a bank in province.

In outlining the purpose of the gathering to farmers and cooperatives at Ehlanzeni South District Office on the 19 April 2013, Mr. Job Mthombeni, the President of AFASA in Mpumalanga said that their role was to embark on a visit to all farmers in the districts and present the concept. He said the bank would enable members to have easy access to affordable banking services; run and managed by members themselves, well trained staff and board of directors.

He further indicated that the goal of AFASA together with Cooperative Financial Institute of South African Development Agency (COFISA), supported by the

Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) and other stakeholders, was to establish a bank which would be strong, sustainable, independent, contributing to economic growth, supportive to farmers, creating jobs and generating income that would contribute to vibrant equitable and sustainable rural communities in Mpumalanga.

A seasoned farmer, Mr. Dennis Nkuna from the Nkomazi Cotton Farmers Association in Steenbok, said he was welcoming this great initiative. "This is a great idea. We will be able to have ownership, access finances and loans in our own cooperative bank; I believe this is a remarkable step to greater things in the agricultural industry," concluded Mr. Nkuna.





THERE ARE BENEFITS IN FARMING – SAYS YOUNG FARMER

Celani Ndude

ndudewc@mpg.gov.za



Ms Nonhlanhla Ndlovu in her garden

“If you are in agriculture as a young farmer you are considered a fool by your peers who have no interest in farming. Yes, they may perceive us as such, but I always say I am wiser because I can put food on the table.” This is according to 31-year-old Nonhlanhla Ndlovu, an unemployed young farmer who relies on her produces to make ends meet.

As millions of young people are up and down in search of decent employment in various sectors and others languishing in poverty, the hardworking Nonhlanhla works tirelessly digging for more greener vegetables in her small piece of land, fighting against poverty.

The energetic farmers is one of the young South Africans still lifting up the torch high from the youth of 1976 who became agents of change by sacrificing their lives in order to achieve a better future for all.

As part of Youth Month, young people were converging in different gatherings commemorating the 37th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto student uprising. But Nonhlanhla believes that today’s generation has a rich history to be proud of, and a lot to offer because the current government was encouraging them not to sit on their laurels and do nothing, but to be pioneers of projects.

Nonhlanhla could not further her studies, but that did not stop her from achieving certain goals in life. Her passion for agriculture motivated her to approach the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) for advice and support through the Masibuyele Emasimini programme.

A very passionate former grade 12 student at Khanyisa-

ni Senior Secondary School in Siwalala near Hazyview, she said her passion for agriculture was triggered while she was still at school, with Agriculture as part of her subjects. She started producing vegetables on a small piece of land on her backyard where she ploughed 5 to 10 lines of different crops in 2009.

Her project grew in leaps and bounds after she put more efforts with her workers to de-bush some area in her plot to expand the project. The plot was situated at Plaston on a 1 hectore piece of land, where she ploughed and planted spinach, beetroot, chillies, carrots, beans, green pepper, onion and cabbage. She started selling her produce on a street market in 2011 and has created job opportunities for two people. Her only challenges include cattle grazing near her project; she also needs fence and a Jojo tank for irrigation.

DARDLA Agric Advisor for Mbombela Municipality Ms Rejoice Malumane, explained that since the department came to Nonhlanhla’s rescue, her project was growing bigger every day. Her future plans include establishing a cooperative where she would include livestock production, especially in piggery and chicken production. The department has also assisted her with watering tanks and agricultural inputs.

In her Policy and Budget Speech for 2013/14, DARDLA MEC, Ms Violet Siwela said that it was still the department’s belief that the cooperatives approach could accelerate the development and empowerment of the people. She said along this belief, the department encouraged farmers to establish primary and secondary cooperatives.





DISASTER IS MANAGEABLE AND CAN BE CONTROLLED

Gugu Nkosi & Mbalenhle Mhlongo

GuguNkosi@mpg.gov.za & MPMhlongo@mpg.gov.za



Nkangala farmers at the workshop on disaster management

Ermelo in the Gert Sibande District was a meeting place for farmer organisations and department officials to discuss the impact of climate change of the farming community. The workshop was an initiative of the National Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration.

The workshop was indeed influenced by the number of disasters experienced in Mpumalanga in the year of 2012 where many people lost their livestock partly due to the lack of knowledge and understanding of Climate Change. This is the world's natural phenomenon which has a serious negative impact on the livelihood of mankind, which could cause a disorder of an unprecedented scale if not properly managed.

The national awareness to mitigate adverse effects of Climate Change is of pyramid importance and needs to be strengthened. There is a call for Mpumalanga as a province, by the national department to address the effects of these disasters. Emanating from this provincial Climate Change awareness campaign, Gert Sibande District held its Climate Change and Disaster Management awareness campaign on the 29 May 2013 at Ermelo Inn.

The purpose of the campaign was to inform farmers about Climate Change and its consequences to the agriculture sector. Farmers were further advised on control measures as indicated by the National Climate Change Response Strategy. The adherence to the instruction and correct implementation of recommendation was emphasised, and farmers were all in agreement with the presenters. They however alluded to the lack of information and late arrival of the information to them as another cause of poor management of disaster in time or before it strikes.

The Dardla's Manager for Disaster Management Unit Mr. Madoda Nkambule gave a summary of the status core of the province in terms of disaster management, and alluded to the poor management of disaster especially during winter and/or rainy seasons. An example of the Lothair disaster that shock the whole country when lives were lost due to the bridge that was washed away during heavy storms was given as a perfect example of the challenges that are still facing the province when it comes to disaster management.

Meanwhile, a similar workshop for farmers in the Nkangala region was held at the Protea Hotel in Emalahleni on the 31st of May 2013. Mr Nkambule emphasized that the workshops are on climate change and disaster management, disaster relief schemes, veld fires, drought, migratory pests and other disaster management issues. He said the DARDLA and DAFF saw the need to run workshops to help the farmers as they are the ones who incur the burden after any disasters.

This awareness campaign took place as winter sets in, and on the eve of a fire season. Last year the agriculture sector suffered serious losses when some parts of the province experienced a cold spell, African swine flu and African fruit flies. Farmers in the Nkangala region alone lost over a thousand cattle due to a cold spell, which clearly caught them unprepared as most of their livestock died from malnutrition, amongst other causes to the deaths.





MARAPYANE FARMERS AND COOPERATIVES OPENS DOORS FOR LCA COLLEGE STUDENTS

Sello Ngema

NgemaS@mpg.gov.za



LCA Students receiving on the job training (Practicals)

Students from Lowveld College of Agriculture Marapyane Campus Visited different Farms and cooperative around Marapyane and Rust De Venter during their practical week to get hands on experience from putting theory in to practice, and what it means to be involved in farming.

Outlining the purpose of the practical's, Mr Koroma who is the head of academic at the college commenced everyone behind the success of the students practical's saying experience is a true reflection of what is expected out of them when joining the competitive agricultural sector. He further stated that measures have been put in place to address the genuine concerns which were raise by students about practicals. "As the college we have signed the memorandum of understanding with local farmers and other relevant institution with the view of keeping this college as a learning institution of choice said Mr. Koroma."

The first week of June (4-7 June) was dedicated to

LCA Marapyane campus students for practicals were they learn more about animal castration, dehorning, dipping, vaccination, ear tags and branding, while crop production students were doing soil preparation, compost making, Vegetable production and planting of chickpea trials.

College lectures, technicians and Mr. MD Legwathi from crop research offered practicals, words of encouragement and support to the first and second year students to start immediately with the preparation for their exit strategy. The practicals was graced by the college principal Mr.GP Viljoen and encourage lectures and technicians to continue involving local farmers.

The chairperson of Lekgwarapa livestock project (cattle and goat) Mr.Swathe which is situated in Marapyane village, close to the college welcomed the initiative and made a call to students do come and do experiential training at their farm.





A DARDLA BURSARY CHANGES A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE FOR GOOD

Celani Ndude

ndudewc@mpg.gov.za



Johan Prince Mangani - Hard at work.

A dream came true for a 27 year old graduate after the Department made him and others to realise their goals. The Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) took the graduate out of a humble beginning and put him to greater heights through a financial boost it offered to many needy students.

The outspoken Johan Prince Mangani from Pienaar Ka Oog, did not disappoint; he live up to the expectations when he completed his Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning Degree with flying colours at University of Pretoria in 2010. A top achiever in his academic record and with a certificate in his bag for completing the Top Junior Leadership Development Programme in the University, Mangani is now hoping to complete his Masters in Town and Regional Planning as he is left only with a few modules.

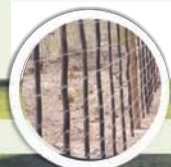
After surviving many storms, he is currently working as a Junior Town and Regional Planner under the Land Administration Unit responsible for Municipal Support.

He described his current job as a learning curve and still learning a lot from it. "My responsibilities involve CRDP pilot projects, drafting of Land Use Invasion Strategy, proposed Nkosi Development City in Pienaar, Mpumalanga Spatial Working Group, Review IDP of some municipalities in the province and I am also involved in the drafting of the Review of Town Planning Schemes in Gert Sibande," said the ever excited Mangani.

The big dreaming Mangani went on to share his humble beginnings. "In life there's nothing impossible, dreams do come true. When I matriculated in 2005 my first job was at Spur working as a waiter. For me working in the department has been a lifetime changing opportunity and it has open many doors and I believe that I will climb the highest ladder in the sector," said the young aspiring Johan.

The department made his dream come true while he was doing his first year when he applied for a bursary and became one of the 14 bursary recipients for the 2007/2008. He struggled like many other students to put every piece of a puzzle together in order to achieve better education. Upon receiving bursary from Dardla, his life changed for the better because, according to him, the financial assistance he had been receiving from the National Student Financial Assistance Scheme (NSFAS) was not enough to finance his educational needs.

He said that the department was a messiah to him because the bursary eased the financial burden from his parents. "Life at varsity was not smooth; my father worked as a general worker and my mother was unemployed...things were really tough. The bursary was a big plus for my parents as it paid for everything; books, accommodation, transport, tuition fees, meals and a stipend," said Mangani, who added that his parents were elated when he got the bursary because





they were able to concentrate on supporting his siblings.

Besides an opportunity to join the department under the internship programme after completing his Degree, Mangani also received an offer to work with SJN Development Planning Consultants as a Junior Town Planner towards the end of 2011.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Patrick Nyathi

pnyathi@mpg.gov.za



from right is Vivian Maponya, Ollitter Ndlovu (Both Dardla Officials) Mr Sambo (Community member) and Mr Solomon Boloji Agric Manager Bushbuckridge North

Casteel: Farmers and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) officials gathered to talk about the need to protect children and women in our communities. The event, which was also attended by farmers from all corners of Bushbuckridge and Thaba Chweu municipalities, was planned by Dardla, and invited the Department of Justice to present on the legality of protecting women and children.

This was the first event of its kind where farmers and government officials gathered in one place to deliberate on issues that directly affect them either at work or home. It was clear from the meeting that most people that attended did not know how to handle issues of abuse that they are exposed to, and did not even know where to report such cases. Another factor

was that most in attendance were not aware that there are different forms of abuse, other than physical and sexual abuse.

Mr Joseph Kubayi from the Department of Justice informed the delegates of their constitutional rights. "It is every child's right to family care of parent care; it is also the right for our women to be cared for and be protected from any form of abuse, be it emotional or physical," lamented Mr Kubayi.

Mr Kubayi reminded all in attendance, it is to be a parent, and encourage all of parents to take good care of the children in order to bring the best out of them. Mr Kubhayi also encourage all men who attended the event to treat women with the respect and dignity.





WHERE WE CAN BE FOUND

HEAD OFFICE

Building 6, Floor 1&2
No 7 Government Boulevard
Riverside Park
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 11219
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 766 6082
6048/6020
Fax: +27 (0)13 766 8429

Email: info.dardla@mpg.gov.za
Website: <http://dardla.mpg.gov.za>

REGIONAL OFFICES

EHLANZENI NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE

101 Main Road
Thulamahashe
1365
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 1321
Thulamahashe 1365
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 759 4000
Fax: +27 (0)13 759 4165

EHLANZENI SOUTH DISTRICT OFFICE

18 Jones Street
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

P.O. Box 266
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: 013 759 4039
Fax: 013 759 4165

NKANGALA DISTRICT OFFICE

Building 16
Government Complex
Kwamhlanga 1022
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 4017
Kwamhlanga 1022
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 947 2551
Fax: +27 (0)13 947 2809

Thembisile Hani Municipality
Unit 421(Portion1)
Gemsbokfontein Farm 231 JR
Mkobola Magisterial District

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT OFFICE

44 Church Street
Ermelo 2350

Republic of South Africa

Private Bag X 9071
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27(0)17 819 2076
Fax: +27(0)17 811 0774

LOWVELD COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Principal: Mr. MG Mahlangu
Cnr R40 White River Rd and
Fredenheim Rd
Riverside
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 11283
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)13 753 3064
Fax: +27 (0)13 755 1110

LOWVELD COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE- MARAPYANE CAMPUS

Principal: Mr. G Viljoen
Tuinplaas Road
Skilpadfontein

Private Bag x1
Skilpadfontein
0431
Tel: +27 (0)12 010 0010

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration endorses the principles of Integrity and Accountability in Resource Management



PRESIDENTIAL HOTLINE: 1777

Communications Team

Editor - Zanele Shabangu **Sub-Editor** - Bheki Nyathikazi **Reporters** - Celani Ndude • Andile Shabangu
• Nomalanga Mbuyane • Patrick Nyathi • Mbalehle Mhlongo • Nelly Mashabane • Gugu Nkosi
Graphic Designer & Layout - Ruth Martin

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, neither does it reflect views of management. Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team of this publication takes no responsibility for any inaccuracy.

