

**ADDRESS BY MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT HONOURABLE
M.D KHOABANE (MPL) TO THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE ON TABLING THE
BUDGET VOTE 11**

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

HONOURABLE PREMIER ACE MAGASHULE

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSONS OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

MAYORS, COUNCILLORS AND SPEAKERS OF OUR MUNICIPALITIES PRESENT

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

DIRECTOR GENERAL AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS

PROVINCIAL WINNERS OF HLA SELA TLALA KA DIRATSWANA AWARDS

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

DUMELANG, GOEIE MORE, MOLWENI, SANIBONANI, GOOD MORNING.

I would like to extend warm greetings to all on this important day.

I am honoured to present the Budget Vote for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the time when nature has unleashed unfavourable conditions to the means of survival of the human species in the Southern Africa through drought. I present this budget at the time when we are expected to deliver the programs that should reverse the decades of intentional impoverishment of black people, in our country, through land dispossession and other evil means meted out by the cruel system of Apartheid.

This budget outlines our endeavor to assist aspirant and emerging farmers to find space in the industry and grow. At the same time, we have to work closely with established farmers to expand their market share, to develop more secondary industries and to help emerging farmers.

Honourable Members, the rich ore of minerals beneath our soil were extracted without regard of the development of the people of the province nor the establishment of secondary industries. Those minerals have developed other nations in the countries of the North and we are left with the richness on the soil surface, the Agricultural products. We cannot betray the mission of our generation by not developing our agriculture to the highest level. Paul Chatfield emphasized this point when he said,

'Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.'

Honourable speaker, the history of our country has entrenched negative and dangerous perceptions embedded on racism. Labour relations problems in the farms easily find expression in racial divisions which emasculate the entrepreneurial capacity necessary to develop the agricultural industry to high productivity levels. Unfortunate incidents that smacks of racism that from time to time rear their ugly heads in our farming community should be confronted without fail. This requires strong working relations between farmers and farmworkers in order to form an impassable security network that would deal severely with any criminality in the farms. We cannot fold our

arms when farmers are murdered by criminals because such incidents sabotage agricultural production to the core.

Honourable Speaker, today, we can say with a deep sense of humility and pride that the overarching ideals of democratic transformation in our country, fostering economic growth, accelerating development and improving the living conditions of our people for the present and the future generations is being gradually attained. Yet we understand that the road ahead is narrow, long and not easy. Through the sacrifices made by our dedicated and loyal icons, today, the people of South Africa could proudly, without any fear, practice their constitutional rights by voting for the government of their choice; and it is also important to assure the people of this province that this government will at all times strive to deliver on its promises within the budgeted and available resources to improve the dignity and the living conditions of the masses in rural areas.

Honourable speaker, in the State of the Nation address 2016 President Jacob Zuma, acknowledged that our economy is facing serious challenges which requires innovation and partnership, we wish to pledge that under the stewardship of Premier Ace Magashule, we will continue to implement Operation Hlasela in partnership with our strategic stakeholders in order to achieve our Medium Term Strategic objectives.

Honourable speaker, as the department, we are committed to discharge the mandate of empowering the agricultural sector through the provisioning and facilitation of efficient agricultural development support including investment solutions in order to ensure rural development, constant economic growth as well as sustainable livelihoods. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, speaks of the inclusivity and integration of rural areas, through successful land reform, job creation and poverty alleviation, and places Agriculture as the driving force behind this vision. As the primary economic activity, the NDP sees agriculture as having the potential to create 1 million new jobs.

Eerbare Spreker, die heersende droogte situasie het 'n negatiewe uitwerking op die landbousektor net soos met ander reënval en watervoorsiening afhanklike sektore. Die provinsie was aanvanklik as 'n droogte ramp op 10 September 2015 verklaar; gegewe die aanhoudende verwoestende omstandighede was 'n verlenging in Februarie 2016 toegestaan. Hierdie negatiewe gevolge van die droogte het ons boere oor die algemeen erg geraak. In sy 2016 Staat van Provinsierede, het die Premier korrek aangedui dat “die droogtetoestande nie net gelei het tot werkverliese en die inkrimping van landelike ekonomie maar het ook gemanifesteer in stygende voedselinflasie.” Die regering het **R45 miljoen** tersyde gesit vir verligting aan boere wat geraak is en meer as **3 136** Vrystaatse boere het daaruit gebaat.

Daarbenewens, is 20 plase rondom Zastron en Rouxville geaffekteer deur weghol veldbrande in Desember 2015, sedertdien het ons meer as 55 807 sakke proteïen gebaseerde pille, konsentrate, voer, vee waternetwerke en vee medikasie versprei. Ons het gehelp deur rakende Kleinboere en Bestaansboere by te staan wat 'n skaarsheid aan vee drinkwater ondervind het met waternetwerk ondersteuning in die vorm van boorgat plasing, deur die ontwikkeling van windpompe, watertenks en waternetwerke te boor en toe te rus. Sedert 25 Januarie 2016, staan die totale sterftes van vee op **3 967** en meer as 15 000 grootvee is verkoop (uitgegooi) teen 'n verlies; en die totale verlies van vee is beraam op **R26 441 million**. Op droë land kon 'n beraamde **65%** van die totale bewerkbare grond nie gekweek word nie, met 'n verlies ondersoek oor produksie-insette beraam op **R450 miljoen**.

Honourable Speaker, we are appealing to our farmers to sell all unproductive animals as soon as possible and only keep the nucleus breeding stock, try not to feed expensive form of feed on the ground where too much wastage can occur use cribs or troughs, make sure that the animals have close by watering sources with enough water to drink, do not make the animals walk too far to eat roughage and drink water as this wastes energy and weakens animals and lastly mix drought pellets meal with roughage such as straw bales. We will continue with awareness campaigns to support farmers with advice to curb the effects of the drought and initiate rehabilitation projects on water conservation, harvesting and veld management including fodder banks.

Honourable Speaker, according to Statistics South Africa about **14.1 million** (26.2%) of South Africans are experiencing inadequate access to food. In Free State, we have about **600 000** people from the total population of **2,7million** who are still experiencing inadequate access to food but through our food security programme “Hlasela Tlala ka Diratswana”, we have supported more than **134 625** households across the province. We have also partnered with other government departments to established food gardens, namely:

- Department of Health: 94 clinics across the province have food gardens.
- Human Settlements: 30 Military Veteran Households have food gardens.
- Social Development: 24 Community Nutritional Development Centres (CNDC) have established food gardens.

Motlotlehi Motsamaisi wa lekgotla la ketso ya molao, ka la 23 kgweding ya Mphalane ngwahola, lekgotla la phethahatso le phatlaladitse Cornelia, Tweeling, Excelsior le Tweespruit e le dibaka tse ka hlwaelwang ho ntshetsapele leano la sehlooho la ntlafatso ya dibaka tsa mahae le ho sibolla dibaka tsa tlhahiso tse mafapaneng tsa temothuo. Jwalo ka ha ho hlalositse Tonakgolo ha a ne a tshetlehela baahi puo pulong ya lekgotla la ketso ya molao, maano a ntshetsopele ya diprojeke tsa Hlasela Tlala ekasitana le meralo ya kgolo ya moruo a se a hatetse pele Cornelia le Tweeling. Re boetse re kgakotse dihydroponics tsa meroho tse hlano; tse tharo di Tweeling, mme tse pedi di Cornelia. Temo e etswang ho tse pedi tsa Cornelia e eteletse pele ke bomme. Re boetse re abile mohlape wa dikgomo tse leshome (10) tsa lebese, difate tse makgolo a mahlano; re ekitse ka ho fana ka dipeo tekong ya ho sibolla diratswana tse makgolo a makgolo mahlano (500). **Re hlasela tlala le bofuma!**

Honourable Speaker, as we have reported in a previous financial year, we are further expanding and growing the apple development in the Eastern Free State. Furthermore, this include Wilhelmina and Diyatalawa Agri-Villages, as areas of expansion for the

development of apple production. These fruit projects will contribute to the bigger agro processing value adding opportunities in the Free State and opens opportunities for investors to come and invest in this lucrative industry.

Honourable speaker, we will remain committed in ensuring that the Poultry Integrated Agri Hubs in Lejweleputswa, Fezile Dabi and Thabo Mofutsanyana districts are developed. For the second phase, we have completed four of the 40,000 broiler units in Virginia; four broiler units in Parys and two broiler unit in Reitz.

At Fezile Dabi, we have constructed 15 hydroponic structures as well as 12 multispan hydroponics in Kroonstad to enhance our vegetable hub. In Lejweleputswa we have assisted Sandvet project with the potato harvester and sorting machine to add more value on farm produce.

Honourable Speaker, our Gariep Fish Hatchery is in operation and we have distributed 50 000 fingerling to six out growing fish farms. This project has created job opportunities to the appointed Aquaculture specialists, Technicians and Aquaculture Scientists. We have also trained 140 farmers including 35 Animal Health and Extension Officers from Xhariep as well as 40 learners from SAPS. On Ostriches we have completed seven production units with the capacity of 800 birds per unit. ***Rona mona Foreistata Re hlasela Tlala!***

Through Veterinary Services, we will continue to promote a healthy animal population, prevent transmission of animal diseases to humans, promote food safety, diseases surveillance and diagnostics through the provision laboratory services. Based on the fact that the Province is mandated to facilitate export of animals and/or animal products to our international trade partners, promote agri-tourism through facilitation of buffalo movements within and outside the province as well as provision of a reputable veterinary diagnostic services.

In support of the Rural Economic Transformation, we have identified the establishment and construction of the five mega Agri-parks in the province. The development of plans, designs and fencing of the site have been completed and infrastructure development

will commence in due course. I am glad to announce that we have appointed the district Agri park advisory committees and they are with us today. **Siyaqhuba!**

Honourable Speaker, through LandCare and EPWP we have managed to assist farmers in commonages and communal areas to eradicate invader plant species, to construct soil conservation structures and fencing whereby we have created 313 job opportunities.

In addition, we have extend our LandCare programme by embarking on awareness campaigns to rural schools.

Koletjhe ya Temothuo ya Glen ke mathulahohle ha ho tluwa lekaleng la thuto le thupello ho tsa thuo ya mobu le diphoofolo. Ke ka hoo selemong se kodumetseng sa ditjhelete, barui ba sekete, makgolo a supileng le mashome a mahlano (1750), esitana le basebetsi ba mapolasing, ba rupeletswe makaleng a fapaneng a temothuo, mme ha morao yaba ba abelwa mangolo a thuto. Ka kopanelo le setsha sa thupelo sa AgriSETA, lefapha le kgakotse leano leo ka lona ho ananelwang thuto ya motheo, mme ke ka hoo re kgonneng ho rupella baithuti ba mashome a robong le metso e robedi (98) hore ba abelwe mangolo a thuto ya thuo ya diphoofolo, temo, le thuo ya dikgoho le dihlahiswa tsa yona. Ka kopanelo le Lefapha la Naha la Tlhabollo ya Mahae le Thuo ya Mobu (Rural Development and Land Reform), re kgonne ho kwetlisa batjha ba kojwana di mahetleng ba mashome a mane le metso e supileng (47) hore ba tsebe ka temothuo. Bona ke bopaki bo totobetseng ba hore re ikemiseditse ho beha batjha ba dibaka tsa mahae ka sehloohong. Ha jwale koletjhe ya temothuo e kentse tshebetsong leano la thupelo le phano ya mosebetsi (learnership) makaleng a mane a tshebetso, mme ke batjha ba mashome a robedi le metso e mene ba rutwang ka diphoofolo le temo, temo ya ditholwana le ho di hlopha ka mekgahlelo.

Motlotlehi Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, re thehile maqhama a tshebetso le bomphato ba rona Lefapheng la Sepolesa, Mebila le Dipalangwang leanong la tlhokomediso ya boipaballo mebileng. Ke ka hoo re abileng mabanta a benyang lefifing a dikete tse

leshome le metso e mehlano (15 000) e le ha re leka ho phema dikotsi tse bakwang ke diphoofole tse sollang. Maqhama ana a boetse a entse hore re thuse batjha ba sa sebitseng ka tsa thupello ya melao ya mebila le dipalangwang. Hara baithuti ba makgolo a mane, mashome a mararo le metso e mmedi (432) ba kenetseng thupello ena, ba makgolo a mabedi le metso e mehlano (205) ba atlehile ho fumana mangolo a ho qhoba makoloi.

Honourable Speaker, In support of Rural Children, we have built eight Junior Traffic Academy Models for Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres in the following areas: Thabo Mofutsanyana (Diyatalawa, Kgolokweng, Libertas), Fezile Dabi (Swaartfontein and Oorskiet) farms, in Mangaung Metro (Sediba and Bofulo trusts). And we will distribute ten mobile Junior Traffic Academy models to identified ECD centres on farms. Furthermore, about 700 bicycles will be handed over to the needy rural school children. **Re ntshetsa pele maphelo a batjha ba mahaeng!**

Honourable Speaker, through the formalisation of Strengthening the Relative Rights of farm workers and farm dwellers we have observed positive results and commitment from commercial farmers in support of this initiative from York farm next to Herzogville. We will continue to accelerate the pedal of service delivery by ensuring that we strike constructive deals with the organised agriculture and farmers. **Foreistata re hlasela bofuma!**

In the year 2015/16, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has transferred four properties in Hertzogville as a response to the strengthening of relative rights, formally known as the 50:50 policy. This initiative has benefited and empowered **79** households from the affected farm workers.

Honourable Speaker, Rietfontein is earmarked as the fifth farm to benefit farm workers in the path towards 50% as they are currently owning 10 % in the feedlot and the remaining 40 % is still available for sale. The 20 % shareholding is in the process of being transferred to BEE Consortium and the intention is to encourage Rietfontein

farmers to cultivate 100 000ha of land by the year 2019. This model serves to ensure that the strategic partner has a sufficient equity interest in order to sustain the business. In essence, it is designed to encourage farm employees to actively participate in business opportunities at their disposal to improve their respective levels of employment in order to operate within an independent enterprise.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to table plans for the 2016/17 Financial Year.

Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) aligns itself to the New Growth Path (NGP), the National Development Plan (NDP), and the Medium Term Strategic Framework in respect of Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive growth, Outcome 7: Vibrant ,Equitable and Sustainable Rural Communities, Outcome 10: Protect and enhance our environmental assets and natural resources. For the new financial year (2016/17), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development shall, within the constraints and opportunities confronting the sector, be able to implement programs and projects that contributes to the growth of the sector and the province:

Honourable Speaker, the Departmental Administrative Management and Leadership provides the overall administrative management of the Department.

The department require a financial support of **R261, 572 857** in order to effectively operate the administrative functioning, management and technical support to the operations.

In the 2016/17 financial year Sustainable Resource Management projects will still be implemented to assist previously disadvantaged land users and implement the Junior LandCare project to create awareness amongst the youth on caring and managing of the natural resources. Amongst others, we will implement 18 LandCare projects and one Junior LandCare project amounting **R5, 493 million**, we will also extend LandCare projects with EPWP grant to benefit local people in order to eradicate invader plants. These projects will focus on eradicating about **4758ha** of invader plants, construction of waterways and water runoff planning linked to construction of contours on **613 ha** of eroded lands in commonages and communal areas.

Motlotlehi Motsamai wa Lekgotla la Ketso ya Molao, re hlapanya hore re tliho kenya tshebetsong leano la tlhokomelo ya tokoloho ya temothuo, mme ho tla hlabollwa mobu wa dihektara tse lekgolo le mashome a mahlano (150 ha). Ka morero ona retlo theha menyetla ya mesebetsi e makgolo a mararo, mashome a mabedi le metso e mmedi (322). Maano a motjha-o-tjhele a ho pepesa tlhabollo ya mobu le tlhokomelo ya dihlo dilweng ke tshiya lefapheng lena.

Lemong se hodimo sa ditjhelete (2016/17), ka leano la mokgopi (Massification), re habile dihektara tse dikete tse supileng tsa mobu o loketseng temo. Tlase tshiya ya lefapha, re tla tsehehetsa leano la Hlasela Tlala ka Diratswana le ho tla ka meralo e metjha ya tsehetso ya ho lema diratswana e le ha re ela hloko kanetso ya dijo.

Honourable speaker, Premier Ace Magashule in the SOPA 2015, indicated that “we shall continue to develop Free State as poultry hub of South Africa”. The Poultry Hubs at Lejweleputswa, Fezile Dabi and Thabo Mofutsanyana will focus more on both broiler and layer units; at Lejweleputswa in Virginia we will construct two additional **40 000** capacity broiler units and one (7500 capacity) layer unit in Cornelia. We will also start with the construction of a poultry abattoir in Parys.

Honorable Speaker, Xhariep remains our key Fish and Ostrich hubs and for the new financial year we have set aside **R21, 6 million** to complete the Fish Processing plant at Bethulie and to support the six Fish Production farms. We will also complete the Ostrich Feed Processing Plant at Koffiefontein to maximize production at our Ostrich Production projects.

At Mangaung Metro we have set aside **R22, 099 million** to enhance livestock value chain and improvement that will include the N8 Livestock corridor development, Sheep and Goats handling facilities and Vegetable production to support the Thaba Nchu Agripark with produce from our respective projects.

For Lejweleputswa, we have set aside **R19, 300 million** to expand our Brandfort piggery project, Virginia broiler production houses.

At Thabo Mofutsanyana we have set aside **R20, 225 million** for expansion of Fruit production at Wilhelmina (expand the warehouse) and Diyatalawa, to support Ficksburg

Ladies Asparagus project; expand production at Vrede piggery project. We will also support Tshiame Agripark with produce from our respective projects.

Fezile Dabi we have set aside **R33, 000 million** for the construction of the Poultry Abattoir, construction of the piggery projects at Tweeling and Cornelia including planning for the construction of Fish Project at Metsimaholo.

Motlotlehi Motsamaisi wa Dipuisano, re tla tswela pele ho baballa dihlo dilweng tse kang dimpshe, leruo, sereledi, meroho, ditholwana ekasitana le dihlahiswa tse ding tsa temo. Re hlapanya hore re tla netefatsa hore dikgwebo tse hlwaetsweng morero ona di kgona ho isa dihlahiswa tsa tsona mebarakeng le hore di fihlele diphelelo tsa sethatho. Bareki ke bona ba tla imona menwana qetellong. Ha leano lena le atleha ho tla thehwa menyetla ya mesebetsi e makgolo a mahlano, mashome a mane le metso e tshelletseng (546).

Honourable Speaker, through Animal Health & Disease Control, we shall keep on expanding the disease control interventions by adding a compulsory vaccination of all new born heifers to prevent the further spread of Bovine Brucellosis. We will intensify vaccination for rabies and other zoonotic related diseases.

As per our commitment, we shall continue to provide high level needs based research development and technology transfer services to the farmers and all relevant stakeholders in the province. In addition, we will continue with all relevant technology adaptive plans and strategies as well as transfers to test new technologies in order to remain relevant in order to boost food security, job creation and economic growth.

Honourable Speaker, with regard to the re-positioning of Glen Agricultural College we are in consultation with the department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries together with the Department of Higher Education. In the new financial year, the College will

continue to invest in the upgrading and building the infrastructure in line with the Norms and Standards of Colleges of Agriculture.

In order to stimulate Vibrant, Equitable and Sustainable Rural Communities, the department will continue to coordinate all rural development related activities including amongst others, rural social mobilization, Animal and Veld Management Programme (AVMP), Agri-villages, Commonages and Social cohesion. We will inject the total budget of **R9, 944 920** for this programme to achieve its objectives.

Honourable speaker, as I conclude, I wish to send a message of hope and inspiration to the hard-working farmers and the ever toiling farmworkers in these trying times by reciting William Enerst Henley's poem,

**Out of the right that convers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be for my conquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance
I've not winced no cried aloud,
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed
Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid,
It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishment the scroll
I am the monster of my fate
I am the captain of my soul.**

I would like to convey my gratitude to the Premier, Honourable Ace Magashule, for his leadership in steering Hlasela to address the needs of the people. And, also, I would like to thank Members of the Executive Council in their unwavering support in ensuring the implementation of our programs.

I would like to convey my profound appreciation for the unquestionable commitment always displayed by the Management and the staff of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, under the stewardship of HOD Thabethe.

I would, also, like to express my sincere appreciation to the Legislature and its committees for always ensuring that we live to our commitment of placing the department at the service of the people.

To comrades Mamiki Qabathe and Mosebenzi Zwane, we will carry forward the baton that you left without fail in our quest to making Agriculture a lucrative business.

Lastly, the courageous strength I derive from my wife and family always keeps me going.

I thank you

ANNEXURE A	
Budget allocation per programme	2016/17
Programmes	
1. Administration	155 461
2. Sustainable Resource Management	32 635
<i>LANDCARE</i>	5 506
3. Farmer Support And Development	395 790
<i>CASP</i>	174 289
<i>ILIMA/LETSEMA</i>	59 447
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION</i>	80 000
<i>DISASTER RELIEF</i>	-
<i>EPWP</i>	2 145
4. Veterinary Services	57 175
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION</i>	-
5. Technology, Research And Development Services	53 811
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT ALLOCATION</i>	22 744
6. Agricultural Economics	10 262
7. Structured Agricultural Training	21 458

8. Rural Development	19 233
Total for programmes	745 825