



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**16 NOVEMBER 2016**

### **MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OUPA KHOABANE TO HAND OVER FEED TO FARMERS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT**

The Free State MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Oupa Khoabane will visit farmers in the Lejweleputswa district who have suffered serious losses as a result of the drought conditions. The MEC will handover 456 bags of feed and lucern bales to commonages in Deelporsrust near Welkom

The same kind of support will also be provided to farmers in: Bultfontein, Allanridge, Hertzogville, Boshoff and Ventersburg.

Following assessments done it has been found that in the Free State province there are about 3 655 farmers from the smallholder and subsistence sector who have been seriously affected by drought. A further 132 farmers are in dire need of water reticulation support.

The Provincial Treasury department will make available emergency funding amounting to R 10 million rand to supply feed in the form of Protein Based Pellets, **R22 Million** will be allocated for water reticulation projects and **R2 Million** will purchase medication for livestock.

Currently farmers have sold some of their livestock to reduce the burden on their deteriorating grazing camps in order to feed the surviving animals. Farmers are still waiting for summer rain for veld to recover completely, but linked to the current strong El Nino that has a negative effect on normal rain in the summer rainfall areas the future looks bleak for a complete recovery. The grazing area that has been affected by drought in the Free State Province is



in the order of 414 649 ha of land according to farmers who completed drought assessment forms.

**Details of the handover are as follows:**

**Venue: Deelporsrust Farm, Welkom**

**Time: 11h00**

**For further enquiries contact**

**Ms Zimasa Leputla**

**082 728 6395**