



**CHIEF DIRECTORATE: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION**

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**3 JANUARY 2022**

### **DALRRD WARNS AGAINST THE MISUSE OF VOUCHERS ALLOCATED IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS (PES)**

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is warning all recipients of input vouchers which are part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES), to refrain from misusing them. The Department has noted with concern, reports of allegations regarding the misuse of vouchers which were issued to support subsistence producers, as part of government interventions to address challenges affecting farmers resulting from the COVID – 19 Pandemic.

The PES programme was initiated to address the high rate of unemployment whilst also seeking to sustain self- employment for subsistence producers.

The Department has received reports of the misuse of these vouchers which include:

1. The **sale and exchange of these vouchers for cash** which defeats the initial purpose for these vouchers; which is the purchase of production inputs
2. There are suppliers who **continue to charge additional costs towards the redemption of these vouchers**. Suppliers further arrange with input retailers to charge subsistence producers up to 50% additional costs for rendering no service at all as these vouchers are redeemed directly from the retail shops. All suppliers provided prices when they entered into contractual agreements with DALRRD and those are the prices that should be charged.



3. Subsistence **producers exchange information on social media to sell vouchers** to their friends, neighbours and even to suppliers.

The Department condemns these activities and officials are working on a process to deal decisively with these fraudulent acts.

Suppliers are **warned not to charge** extra % costs on the vouchers as this will lead to their blacklisting and they could also be charged without further engagements or deliberations.

Subsistence producers (farmers) who are caught selling or using the vouchers for purposes other than those for which they are intended, will be barred from receiving any other government support.

Any misuse should be reported to Mr Molatelo Mamadi on [MolateloMam@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:MolateloMam@dalrrd.gov.za) or cell number 060 972 9920.

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:  
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