



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

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CELEBRATION OF WORLD FOOD DAY WITH FEMALE FARMWORKERS IN CEDERBERG, WESTERN CAPE

25 OCTOBER 2021

Programme Director;

Deputy Minister Skwatsha;

Your Worship! Mayor and Deputy Mayor, together with our Councillors;

Chairperson of the Provincial Committee of Agriculture, standing in for MEC Meyer, Mr David Essau;

Farmworkers' organisations present;

Leaders of organisations present;

Acting Director-General and all officials from the national and provincial departments;

Our partners;

Ladies and Gentlemen

South Africa, like all countries in the world annually, celebrates two most important events that relate to the agricultural sector.

On the 15th of October each year, the United Nations celebrates International Day for Rural Women. This was a deliberate decision by the United Nations to remind us of the role that rural women play in strengthening rural communities, who in the main rely on agriculture for their survival. A majority of these women are also workers in rural industries such as in agriculture farms.

Secondly, on the 16th of October, the whole world celebrated World Food Day. This day we honour our workers and producers of food. During this day, we also look at the importance of food as part of our nutrition and health.

I gave this background in order to allay the fears of those who think this is a political campaign day by the organisation.

The truth is, October is a special month for agriculture.

Elections are important in the calendar of our constitutional democracy and to us as citizens. This is a franchise we fought for, so that all of us as South Africans can choose a government of our choice.

We have been amongst you campaigning and indicating our plans and what we will



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Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvukiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba NekuTufukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha
nokuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Nagale Tlhabollo ya Dinaga magae Lefapha la
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, PusetsoDinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle

do for you. It is you who are the final arbiters who have a final word to choose who you want.

At the same time, the government do not stop because elections is at our door step. No. Government must operate until the new government is sworn in and takes the ropes.

With that said, we are here in Cederberg to celebrate the world food day. Today marks an important day in our country's calendar and more importantly our department. We want to ensure that we have a diverse programme to respond to farmworkers' needs.

The issue of tenure security remains critical for farmworkers. We will address land for housing for farmworkers in a deliberate sense. We need to allocate land to farmworkers for agricultural development, so that they can also participate effectively and meaningfully in the agricultural sector.

Yes, issues of eviction continue to be a challenge. We need to ensure that we address the security of tenure, while regulating evictions.

Empowerment of farmworkers is beyond tenure security, but social and economic development remains key. The issue of capacity building of farmworkers remains important, particularly for the children of farmworkers. We want to break the poverty cycle. We want to ensure that children of farmworkers come into the sector by choice and not because of circumstances.

Programme director; today also marks a report back, following the meeting you had with the deputy minister, where you requested farm implements/ tools to work the land. We are bringing some implements. We know this is a start.

In going forward, we want to work with you and your organisations. The NGOs in the sector have travelled the journey with you. Ours is to ensure that we address your needs by working together with you.

I thank you

-END-

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