



## **Youth Message by the Minister of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development**

Today marks 44 years since young people of our country took a stand against the injustices of the apartheid system. It is these young men and women who gave impetus to our struggle for liberation. Many who came after them continued to swell the ranks of the liberation movements in exile and inside the country. Their struggle was for freedom, equality and justice. They made sacrifices so that all South Africans can have dignity. We salute them for their contributions and commitment to fulfill the ideals they fought for and for which they were prepared to die.

Today, South Africa is a democratic country, and yet we continue to face the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. It is incumbent upon us as public servants of our country to do what is necessary to complete their unfinished mission.

As young people of today, our challenge is to rebuild a non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa. As experts in our fields of study, we need to ensure that we serve our society. It is our time to make sacrifices that will create a better life for our people.

We, who serve in this sector during this time when we are challenged by COVID-19, need to ensure that we educate our peers and our producers to take necessary precautions so that they can ensure that food security is attained. Those amongst us who are scientists need to harness our skills to better understand this disease from an animal science perspective, as its origins are traced to animals. Those of us who are in the extension and advisory services have the task that we must never dare to fail, that of enabling farmers to get necessary information in real time. All of us in our professional capacity need to reflect on how we individually and collectively make a difference in the lives of our people, particularly those who have been waiting for the resolution of their land claims since 1998.

On 19 June 2020, we will remember the brutality of the 1913 Native Land Act, which robbed many of their birth rights. As the servants of the people, we have been given an opportunity to reverse the wrongs that were done by an unjust system. The ball is in our hands to deliver on the palpable expectations of our people.

Today we do not only remember the generation of 1976, but we take courage to continue the struggle for transformation and the building of a non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa.

**Wishing you a Happy Youth Day!**

**#YouthMonth2020 #YouthPower**