



rural development & land reform

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Rural Development and Land Reform
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DESERVING LIMPOPO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS GET FARMING EQUIPMENT

By Nicholas Magada

Rural Development and Land Reform Deputy Minister, KC Mashego-Dlamini, on Wednesday 10 April 2019, handed over farming equipment worth R26 009, 555, 18 m to deserving smallholder farmers in Polokwane, Limpopo. The farming equipment received by the beneficiaries were 4X4 tractors, tractor trailers, boom sprayers, maize planters, disc harrows and mouldboard ploughs.

The Department bought the farming equipment through its program on Rural Enterprise and Industrial Development (REID). The objective of the REID program is to facilitate the development of rural enterprises and industries in areas with economic development potential, thus improving the standard of living and contribute positively to the economy of South Africa to alleviate poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The identified smallholder farmers and the cooperatives, totalling 21 in number, were emerging farmers coming from all five districts in the Limpopo province.

Each of the 21 smallholder farmer entities received a set of mechanisation package. The beneficiaries are actively involved in the farming business.

Mr Colbert Mabasa, a young emerging farmer, is one of the recipients who received a set of mechanisation package (farming equipment) from the Deputy Minister.

Mr Mabasa is a vegetable farmer who grows tomatoes, cabbages, onions, green pepper, spinach and chillies. He is a graduate of the NARYSEC programme, a two-year skills development programme targeting unemployed rural youth between the ages of 18 and 25.

Mr Mabasa is based at Mukhomi village under Collins Chabane local municipality. He is practising farming on a 10 ha farm donated by the local Chief.

Before he received the tractor, the Department had previously assisted him with a drip irrigation system, a wheelbarrow, two water storage tanks and a stand, after noticing that he had already fenced the land, drilled a borehole and installed an electrical transformer on his own, a clear indication that he was a committed farmer.

Present during the handover event was the MEC for the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Basikopo Makamu, who appreciated the

support by the Deputy Minister. He stated that his department will support the farmers through agricultural extension services.

The Deputy Minister told the people attending the event that government is always ready to support smallholder farmers who are committed to work the land for food security.

“We are not the Department of Agriculture, but we assist farmers since providing support is part of the mandate of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform,” said Mashego-Dlamini. She further cautioned the recipients to take care of the tractors and implements and not use them for irrelevant functions which can even shorten their lifespan.



Beneficiaries of the farming implements displaying certificates of acceptance farming implements handed over by Deputy Minister KC Mashego Dlamini in Polokwane, Limpopo