

**2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORTING TABLING SPEECH  
BY THE EASTERN CAPE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRRIAN  
REFORM MEC, MLIBO QOBOSHIYANE DURING THE EC  
LEGISLATURE SITTING, OCT. 12, 2016**

*Honourable Speaker*

*Honourable Deputy Speaker*

*Honourable Premier & Members of the Executive Council*

*Honourable members of the Provincial Legislature*

*Honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development  
& Agrarian Reform*

*Amafama kunye nabemi bephondo jikelele*

*Manene nani Manenekazi*

Honourable Speaker and members of this house, the annual report I am presenting to you and the people of the province, is the account of the results of the department's performance in delivering service delivery and infrastructure programmes during the 2015/16 financial year.

In the past financial year, the department made impressive strides towards stimulating Rural Development, Land Reform and priorities.

In the last financial year we implemented programmes that were driving the economy, making contribution that stimulates rural economy through commercial and communal agriculture, RED hubs in Mqanduli, Mbizana, Ncorha, and Emalahleni, providing support to young people residing in rural areas to start their own brick making cooperatives. This includes creating economic benefits for 1058 people, majority young people, through forestry in six villages of the province in Sixhotyeni, Sinawo, Izinini, Mkhambathi, Lusikisiki, and Gqukunqa.

With regards to the RED Hubs, about 161 jobs have been created for the production of maize on 802 hectares of land with the maize sold in retail outlets like Spar, farmer's cooperatives, stores at the RED Hubs while some is sold to other private entities within the sector.

In the last financial year, we invested R200 million for maize production as part of food security and spent R191 million, registering a R9.1 million under expenditure due to drought that hit Joe Gqabi, Chris Hani, parts of OR Tambo, some parts of Amathole and Alfred Nzo. However, the R191 million invested on 21000 hectares gave a yield of 21 605 tons for the last season. With regards to household food security, about 8653 households benefited from Agricultural Food Security initiative in all the Districts from a total R10 million budget.

In relation to forestry, we created about 1058 jobs, trained about 575 people, planted trees on 3058 hectares of land in the province with the help of the Jobs fund started by President Jacob Zuma to create jobs in the country. The ECRDA and the ECDC have strategic partnerships with both SAPPI and PG Bison for four forestry projects to grow forestry, create jobs for the locals.

In the previous financial year, we invested money in the production citrus and deciduous fruits on 701 hectares of land creating 113 permanent jobs, 5 865 seasonal jobs. We invested in the production of chicory on 295 hectares of land, creating about 500 jobs.

With agriculture infrastructure critical in our work, we invested R124 million on infrastructure projects like fencing 66.39 km; completion of the Lukhanji Abattoir, completion of the Tsolo Veterinary Clinic; renovating 63 Dipping tank; building 9 new dipping tanks, refurbishing of 36 stock water facilities; constructed 28 handling facilities; installing new 6 small scale irrigation systems, constructing 5 feedlots, building 7 new shearing sheds; building 7 poultry structures; renovating 7 hydroponic structures and building 2 multi-purpose structures used for grain storage and general storage shed for farmers.

About 7 farming groups who received 10 heifers and 2 bulls in 2010 through the livestock development programme we are doing in partnership with Nguni Trust from the University of Fort Hare where superior breeding animals were distributed, handed over the livestock as gifts to other farmers as part of the programme.

In 2015, the farmers handed over the same number of livestock they received to other farmers in Amatole, Joe Gqabi, and Sarah Baartman to continue with livestock improvement. Also, in 180 heifers and 12 bulls distributed to farmers in project in participants in Sarah Baartman, Amatole, Joe Gqabi, Alfred Nzo, Chris Hani who each got 30 heifers and two bulls.

In addition to the regular Animal Health Services, the prevalence of Jaagsiekte in sheep flocks of Bethania in Mt Fletcher was successfully curbed through preventative inoculations. To stay abreast of new technology, innovative research is undertaken to improve agricultural production.

**Commented [M1]:** Can we provide examples of this research and where it is done

In support of training institutions the department provided the required financial and infrastructure support to both Tsolo Rural Development Institute and Fort Cox College that are now operational with full complements of academic and professional capacity.

**Commented [M2]:** Can we add how we are addressing infrastructure delays at FC and indicate work currently done at TARDI

The Fort Cox decree was successfully repealed and will open opportunities for the college to source funding and support from other institutions outside government. We are talking to municipalities and SETAs and DAFF to provide bursaries for students from poor families.

**Commented [M3]:** Can we please indicate work we are doing to source funding for FC students as we put it here

Our department is engaging the agriculture sector on the new agriculture economic transformation strategy. For this to become a success, we call on all stakeholders to participate. We make a special call to organizations and unions representing farmers to consider merging to form one united Agriculture Eastern Cape organization so that government works with a united forum of farmers representing their common interests and goals.

It is in the best interest of the province to have farmers from all these different groups, unions, associations and forums joining their efforts to help develop agriculture in the province, to create equal access to markets for all farmers, attract equal investment and business finance for all farmers.

When all these farmers are united, growth is possible, success is certain and improving our contribution to the GDP is possible. We can hasten growing the provincial economy when these farmers have one organization that serves the needs of both black and white farmers.

We have seen successful partnerships in the province between black and white farmers, private sector and public sector. We want to see these farmers talk and start working together.

We will be here to support them and we can facilitate these talks to lead to the formation of one provincial organization to drive agriculture in partnership with the government.

By the end of the financial year, the department spent almost all its budget (99, 3%). The department received an unqualified opinion with an emphasis of matter. I must mention here that the department is already working on this matter through the regular reports on the implementation of the audit intervention plan.

The ECRDA on the other hand, received a clean Audit from the Auditor General giving them a clean bill of health in compliance with all relevant legislations and policies.

These results prove that the ECRDA employed prudent stewardship in managing public funds, ensured that the monies invested by government in the programmes driven by the ECRDA were used properly and fruitfully to deliver on the pre-determined objectives. We congratulate the ECRDA board, management, and staff for getting the clean audit.

Honourable Speaker, I hereby table the annual report of DRDAR and ECRDA. **I thank you.**

**Commented [M4]:** Can we please add our performance rate with regards to the predetermined objectives

**Commented [M5]:** Can we please add ECRDA Audit outcomes here

**Commented [M6]:** There is not information about Rural development programmes, please add text about the results of the RD programmes we implemented in the previous financial year.

**CROPPING:** also, there is no information about cropping. We committed to start fodder production and that report is not here.

**FOOD SECURITY:** There is no report about the work we did to fight food insecurity and poverty. Please add that information here.

**Market support for farmers:** We are not reporting about the work we committed to do to help farmers sell their produce to places like boxer. Please add that information.

**Commented [M7]:** There is not information about Forestry and energy programmes of the ECRDA. Can we please source and add that information into this draft so that it is also factored in.