



## EDITORIAL – Educating public about DRDAR Programs

The implementation of the Agriculture Economic Transformation Strategy by the Department in partnership with commodity groups and farmers is yielding impressive results. The harvest currently underway in the citrus, pineapple, maize farms and fields, the completion of grow-out tunnels at Karoo Catch attest to the real good

performance of the department. Our work is aimed at giving people a better life. As communicators working for the department, our focus is to drive public education to help share information about processes of this work with the people of the province for them to better access our programs to get better life. This is done through this quarterly

newspaper inserted into the Daily Sun, Daily Dispatch, The Herald, Die Burger and Son, monthly radio products aired on Algoa fm, Umhlobo Wenene, SA fm, Radio 2000, Tru fm and soon community radio stations, with strong social media and internet presence. We continue putting people first. Use this information for your benefit.

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Department of Rural Development & Agrarian Reform

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# Top Farmer To Buy DELIVERY BAKKIE WITH PRIZE MONEY

• Proud, enterprising Mbizana based farmer vows to expand farming.



DRDAR's Mbizana Extension Controller, Yuyisa Magengenene, DRDAR's Alfred Nzo District Director Bukwe Madyibhi congratulate their district best Farmer Thobeka Rhozani Ntoyi during the district FEA event.

**T**HOBÉKA RHOZANI NTOYI is an award winning, profit making female farmer from Mbizana under the Alfred Nzo district municipality of the Eastern Cape.

Rhozani Ntoyi, who took home Alfred Nzo's top Female Entrepreneur of the year prize, silverware in the small holder category produces dry beans, cabbages, potatoes, pumpkins, butternut and sells them to local retailers, hawkers, restaurants, farms sheep, shears its wool and sells it to the wool market.

"I started vegetable production small with few seedlings. I realized that I needed to expand my vegetable production so that I could sell it and provide for my family," said Rhozani Ntoyi.

She added that DRDAR's extension officers visited her land to provide technical advice and support frequently, gave her a rainwater tank for irrigation since she was far from the river.

"DRDAR has given me seedlings, a rain water tank to help irrigate my land. I am proud of the work I do because I create jobs also sell

fresh vegetables to fellow villagers, donate to the needy in my community," said Rhozani Ntoyi.

She encouraged other villagers, especially women to make use of the land that was laying fallow saying agriculture production was the only food source.

"We must not let the land lie fallow. Women must use the land to feed our families; we must come together as women and government will support us as women," said Rhozani Ntoyi.

With plans to increase her hectorage by fencing additional land she is leasing from other villagers through commitment letters, Ntoyi wanted to buy her own delivery transport to cut high delivery costs reducing her profit.

"My main challenge is the high delivery costs because if Spar wants 200 cabbages delivered to Flagstaff, drivers charge R900 for delivery which takes my profit as I don't have my own transport. I will save the prize money from FEA and buy a delivery bakkie for my business because delivery costs are hitting me hard," said Rhozani Ntoyi.



Thobeka Rhozani Ntoyi holding one of her harvestes farmed on a 4 hectare land with the support of the DRDAR.

## RATU

DRDAR's Rural Appropriate Technology Unit is alleviating poverty, under development in rural communities.

### RATU FOCUS

- Creates basic social and economic infrastructure.
- Trains unemployed rural youth,
- Stimulates rural employment discouraging migration to cities.
- Enhance production to increase revenue for rural communities.

### KEY PROJECTS

- Water Care: rain water harvesting, spring protection
- Infrastructure: brick making training (flat, interlocking, paving bricks) VIP toilets.

179

200

Youth trained on brick making

Households benefiting from water projects implemented.

2 226

Leamers benefiting from VIP toilets constructed by RATU.



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# MEC CALLS ON SORGHUM FARMERS TO UNITE

Eastern Cape Rural Development and Agrarian Reform MEC, Xolile Nqatha (right) and Emalahleni local Municipality Mayor, Nomveliso Nyukwana listen to a presentation by Zingxondo farming cooperative Chairman, Velani Jack about their sorghum crop during MEC Nqatha's visit to Lady Frere ahead of the annual harvest season. The Cooperative received seeds, fertilisers and chemicals from the department and production loans from the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency to produce sorghum on 74 hectares.

## Sorghum By Numbers

**95%** of sorghum is consumed by South Africans.

**47%** used for umqombothi.

**49%** used for amabele for cereal or sour porridge.

**40%** of SA's Sorghum is produced in Mpumalanga.

**37%** in the Free State.

**15%** in Limpopo.

**4%** in the North West.

**2%** in Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng.

• R1.4 m invested for 105 farmers to grow sorghum on 174 hectares in Cacadu and Mnquma.

Eastern Cape Rural Development and Agrarian Reform MEC, Xolile Nqatha called on Sorghum farmers to work together to reap more rewards from selling their crop. "This good work makes us encourage all sorghum farmers of Zingxondo, Ibuyambo and other cooperatives to work together because when they work together they will reap big rewards, secure markets for their produce, and financial support to expand production," said Nqatha during his visit to Zingxondo. Zingxondo Cooperative received

fertilizers, seeds, chemicals from the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, production loan from the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency to produce Sorghum to be sold to local markets. Emalahleni local municipality Mayor, Councillor Nomveliso Nyukwana said: "I encourage all local farming cooperatives to join the RED Hub jointly funded by the provincial government and the Jobs fund so that they can all receive assistance and support from relevant government departments," said Councillor Nyukwana.

Zingxondo Cooperative Chairman, Velani Jack said they estimate to yield at least 50 bags of 50 kilograms of sorghum per hectare from 74 hectares planted. Jack said after harvesting they will send their crop to the market and use their profit to expand production. "We are optimistic that the buyer will give us a good price for our crop. They just want to see the sample of our crop. It is not easy to access markets for our produce. We are struggling big time," said Jack. According to the Agriculture Research Council, Emalahleni is one

of the sorghum producing areas in the province with 5901 hectares suitable for the crop. DRDAR increased the number of sorghum hectares under production adding 1000 new hectares. DRDAR is investing R680 000 for mechanisation and fencing to grow sorghum on 100 hectares at Emgwe in Mnquma with United Breweries, which buys the crop, investing R500 000 for production inputs. About 456 Ibuyambo Cooperatives own the Emalahleni RED Hub selling the yield to Border Seeds and OVK.



**SHEEP SCAB REDUCES THE MONEY FARMERS MAKE FROM SELLING THEIR WOOL**

Let's control it by reporting suspicious cases, treating affected sheep and goats twice using approved remedies, treating all newly acquired sheep and goats before mixing them with existing flocks... as well as disinfecting cars and shearing equipment.

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Simthembile Nzuzo selling one his honey bottles to DRDAR's Joe Gqabi District Director Dr Zoleka Ntondini.

## Bee Hobby Pollinates Honey Brand

**M**THATHA born Simthembile Nzuzo's bee hobby has blossomed into a thriving beekeeping and honey making business attracting some of the leading local retailers and resort to bulk buy his newly established brand.

Nzuzo said at first he was attracted to the buzzing bees at his farm home and had no idea it could lead into the honey making business one day.

"I started this as a hobby when we had bees under the floor of our farm house. That's when we developed the beekeeping skills. Our honey is sold at Spar (old S n P), FoodLovers at BT Ngebs Mall, bought by Dan's Country Lodge and sold through direct sales to individuals," said Nzuzo.

"DRDAR is helping us with technical advice and services and they connect us

with buyers and that is a mark up for us," said Nzuzo.

His business owns 250 bee hives from which they produce 3 tons of 100% natural organic processed honey per year bottled into branded bottles and sold to the shops while some units are sold to individual buyers at R50 per 500 grams.

Nzuzo also received funding from the ECDC, which bought him bee hive boxes, trailer to transport honey stock, prefab building for processing, honey extractor machine.

Connect with Nzuzo:  
078 7060 139 / 083 773 8805.



Nzuzo showing off some of his honey bottles sold to leading retail stores and Dan's country lodge.



Misgund farm worker, Ms Celiwe Sitwayi shows former Eastern Cape MEC for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Mlibo Qoboshiyane how the Pink Lady apples are graded during the harvesting of apples at Misgund farm in Joubertina while Novuile Mkhankanywa looks on.

# R5.6 MILLION EXPANDS EC'S DECIDUOUS FRUIT

## • Investment to buoy farm net income of land reform farms

**T**HE R5.6 million investment to expand deciduous fruit production in Langkloof exhibits the provincial government's commitment to increasing fruit yields sold to local and foreign markets inline with the Agriculture Economic Transformation Strategy.

At the time, former Eastern Cape Rural Development and Agrarian Reform MEC, Mlibo Qoboshiyane announced the R5.6 million injection during the apple harvest in Langkloof, saying it will benefit black farmers as part of transforming the sector.

"We are investing more than R5.6 million into these farms to support our farmers to protect the produce. We need more harvest because the market is very much opportune. The provincial

government is committed to support farmers as we invested R7.2 million for expansion in the last financial year," said Qoboshiyane.

Three land reform farms which harvested their produce from a combined 175 hectares, expected to yield a combined 6 431 tons of deciduous fruit exported to the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Russia, Far East, Middle Eastern countries and Indian Ocean Islands, with the United Kingdom taking larger volumes of apples from the province.

To further drive expansion of the sector to create jobs, the department joined forces with the jobs fund to establish 316 hectares of deciduous fruit over four years, estimated to create 305

permanent jobs.

Part of the transformation program is to expand hectares under commercial production in Misgund Small Farmers Trust, Tulpieskraal Workers Trust and JD Rovon farms to help the farmers increase their yield and profits from the sale of their apples, pears and plums to local and international markets.

The three farms produce Big bucks, granny smith, pan golden, early Granny, Envy, Forelle, early bon Chretien, and Packham Triumph, rosemary and Pink Lady cultivars.

Misgund Small Farmer's Trust chairperson, Boo! Jacobs said: "We pride ourselves with the fact that these apples are exported to various countries. The Pink Lady apple is one of the greatest

## Key Deciduous Fruit Numbers

**R7,2 million** is the amount invested by DRDAR to expand deciduous fruit in Langkloof during 2017/18 financial year.

**R11 million** is the amount government paid to buy shares for black farmers from Du Toit pack house to ensure value chain beneficiation.

**6411** is the number of hectares used to produce deciduous fruit

**4%** is the amount of land owned by black Africans in Langkloof.

**224 492.78** is the number of tons of deciduous fruit produced by EC farmers.

**8%** EC's contribution to the national deciduous fruit turnover.

**R1.09 billion** is EC's deciduous fruit profit per annum.

cultivars for our Trust, it brings us more dividends than other cultivars. It is vital that it stays longer in the tree prior to harvesting to maintain its colour."

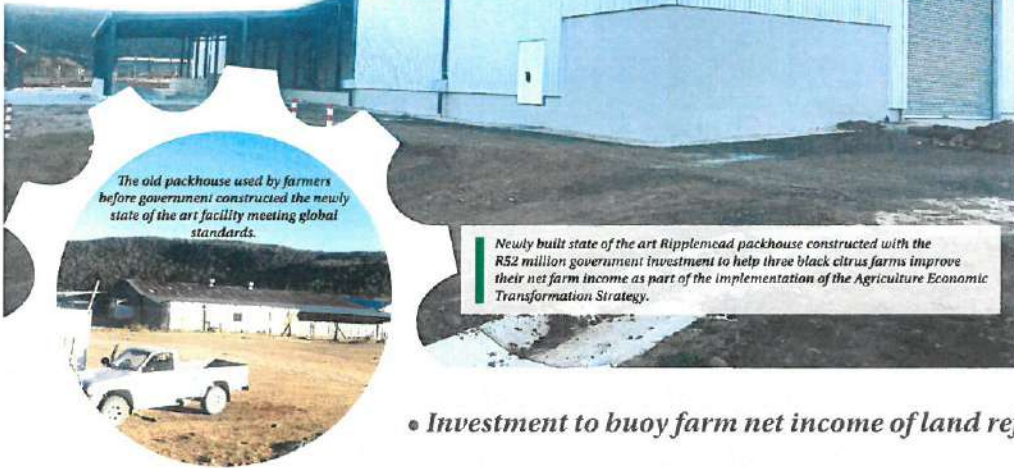
About 49% of the deciduous fruit produced by Eastern Cape farmers is exported, 18% is sold locally and 34% is processed into various products.

Based on their per capita consumption of apples between 2013 and 2015, European, North American and Middle Eastern countries offer high export market opportunities to the Eastern Cape fruit farmers.

Through this investment, new orchard development on three farms has been completed readying the farm to expand production, get increased harvest to buoy farm net income.



# THUMBS UP FOR TWO EC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



The old packhouse used by farmers before government constructed the newly state of the art facility meeting global standards.

Newly built state of the art Ripplemead packhouse constructed with the R52 million government investment to help three black citrus farms improve their net farm income as part of the implementation of the Agriculture Economic Transformation Strategy.

## • Investment to buoy farm net income of land reform farms

**T**WO of the Eastern Cape's infrastructure projects funded by the national and provincial government received thumbs up from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during its first quarter monitoring visit to the province. DAFF's Comprehensive Agriculture Support Program (CASP) Chief Director, Elder Mtshiza, said the construction of the nut processing factory at Ncerha Macadamia and the construction of the Ripplemead Packhouse in Ngqushwa are some of the best projects implemented

by DRDAR. "I think these two projects will remain the landmarks of the potential that CASP and Ilima Letsema can bring in reviving rural economies within the agricultural space. Well done to the Eastern Cape team. This is not the end because these farmers still need to be supported moving forward. I think the job will be much easier with such infrastructure," said Mtshiza. Mtshiza said government's policy objective was to transform the sector to have real black farmers that are

controlling and owning value chains, skill farmers and black land owners whose land was not producing due to lack of resources and skills to create jobs to feed the nation. DRDAR's Head of Infrastructure, Thandeka April said Ncerha and Ripplemead were good investments by the provincial government, adding that she was confident that farmers at both facilities were ready to operate the newly built structures with machinery. "The macadamia farmers, whose de-husking factory is already running, are

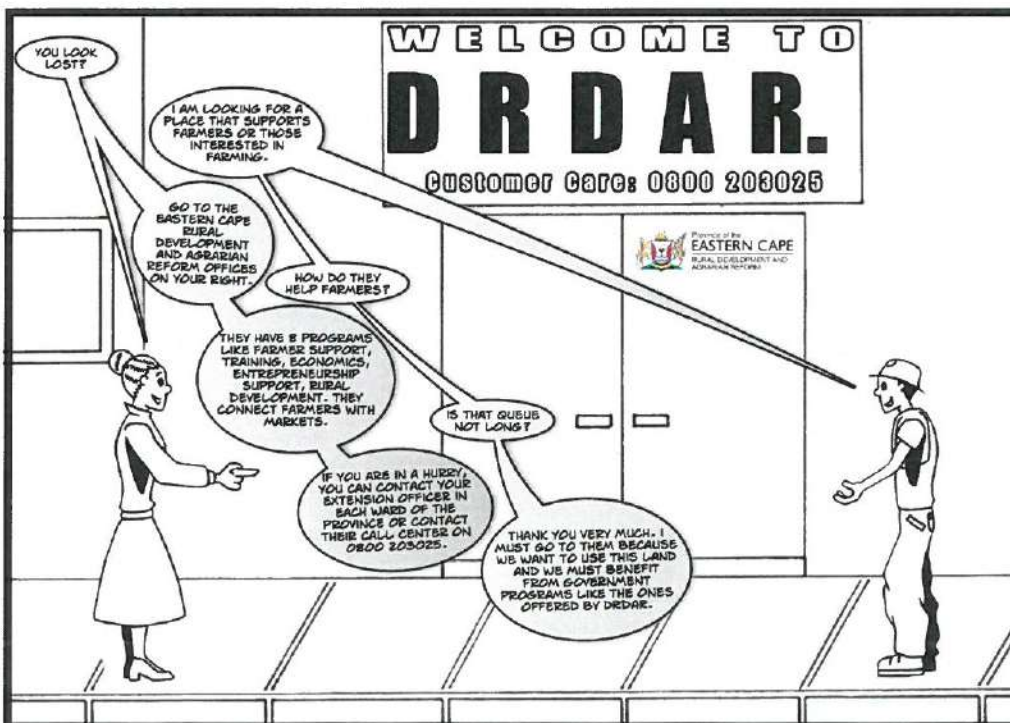
gaining a lot from the new nut cracking factory because they used to pay double the price when transporting the nuts to Durban for cracking but now they are paying less because they now transport less load without the shells," said April. "Ripplemead farmers have been running the commercial packhouse for a long time. I am confident that they will succeed in running the new facility," said April, adding that she was happy with the work done at both Ncerha and Ripplemead.

## HOW TO GET FUNDING FROM DRDAR?

April said farmers who are looking for financial support from the department must apply through their ward based Extension Officers, who present projects from communities to the district screening committee before being presented to the provincial screening committee.

According to April, all projects funded by grants from DAFF are then presented to the national screening committee. Approval of funding for projects funded through the equitable share is done by the provincial steering committee.

"When we advertised last year we received high volumes of applications which shows the demand for our support. The farmers we will support next year are from last year's applications," said April.



**EXTENSION OFFICERS WORK FOR YOU**

I AM VUYISA MAGENGENENE  
Extension Consultant: DRDAR in Makhoma Municipality, Alfred Nzo District

We are here to serve our rural farmers through Extension Officers. All farmers, interested parties must come to our offices for services related to agricultural production.

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# DRDAR fulfils citrus packhouse DREAM



Khayaletu Mphahla, Noordeshoek farm owner.

Hambile Nyamezeli, Siyamila Citrus farm owner.

Zukile Mngadle, Ripplemead farm owner.

THREE Ngqushwa citrus farmers who are currently using a packhouse built with corrugated iron to pack their oranges voiced their excitement when they visited the newly built Ripplemead packhouse funded by the Eastern Cape Rural Development and the national Agriculture Department as part of commercializing agriculture. DRDAR invested R52 million into the construction of the Ripplemead packhouse to help the farmers get a facility that meets the standards of international and local buyers using the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Program grant.

The trio produces oranges sold to local markets with high volumes exported to the European, American, Asian and Middle East markets.

Zukile Mngadle of Ripplemead farm said seeing the newly built packhouse was like a dream because after their pleas for help drew a blank they lost all hope of getting such a facility.

"Pleading with former MEC Qoboshiyane was not the first time we asked MECs for this. We have been asking for this facility for many years. It is like a dream seeing this facility and we don't believe we finally got this packhouse," said Mngadle.

He added that in the old packhouse they take turns packaging their oranges with some of their fruit losing quality before getting to the markets. "In the old facility we wait for each farmer to pack while oranges don't wait for each other. This new facility means we will now send more fresh and quality oranges to

the markets to enable us to manipulate the market and comply with market requirements," said Mngadle.

Hambile Nyamezeli, owner of the Siyamila Citrus farm said the packhouse they are using now is an old structure built in 1927 and limits their market reach.

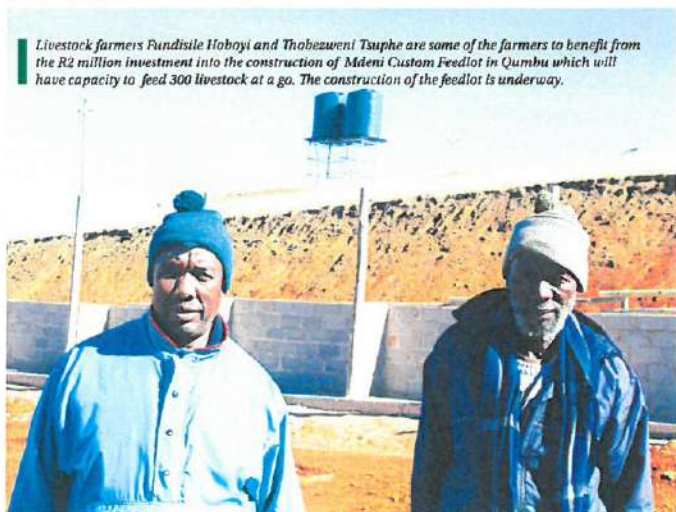
"Because we are using this facility, we are unable to send our fruit to all the markets because our packhouse is of a very low standard," said Nyamezeli.

Another farmer, Khayaletu Mphahla said they invested a lot of their own money trying to fix the current packhouse to comply with food packaging and processing requirements and standards.

"There are markets that want oranges from packhouses with BRC accreditation. Markets like Tesco, Salisbury pay better premiums. From orchard point of view we meet all the standards but when it comes to the packhouse, it is a limitation unless we take our fruit to Fort Beaufort packhouses.

"We don't send the oranges we pack in the current packhouse to the markets with high standards," said Mphahla.

He said they appealed to former Drdar MEC, Mlibo Qoboshiyane and his department to help them get a new facility that meets the standards of the local and international markets.



Livestock farmers Fundisile Hoboyi and Thobezweni Tsuphe are some of the farmers to benefit from the R2 million investment into the construction of Mdeni Custom Feedlot in Qumbu which will have capacity to feed 300 livestock at a go. The construction of the feedlot is underway.

By THOZI MANYISANA

THE future looks brighter for Qumbu's Mdeni village red meat farmers following the R2 million investment by the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform into the construction of a custom feedlot to fatten their livestock.

A custom feedlot is a facility used to feed and care for livestock at a

minimum fee of R850 per head. In this facility, cattle are taken care of for a period of four months (120 days) after which the owner sells them to the formal or informal market of their choice.

This custom feedlot which will be the second in the OR Tambo district forms part of the three new custom feedlots constructed by the DRDAR using R10-million of its budget during the 2017/18

## Cheers for DRDAR's R2 million QUMBU FEEDLOT INVESTMENT

financial year with some in Joe Gqabi and Alfred Nzo Districts. For the 2018/19 financial year DRDAR injected

R16.5 million to build additional five custom feedlots pushing them from 14 to 19 custom feedlots.

At the Mdeni Custom Feedlot near Sulenkama a lot of clearing, flattening of land and construction of feeding shelters has been done signalling the start of construction.

Two jovial local farmers said their livestock was dying not because of the recent drought but due to runaway veld fires.

"This feedlot will bring freedom to the farmers of this area.

As one can see how dry this area is, it is just a matter of time before it is full of livestock because of farmers.

We just cannot wait for this structure to be finished," said Fundisile Hoboyi.

A nearby farmer, Thobezweni Tsuphe who was busy looking after his sheep, added that the feedlot will make them reach commercial markets.

"In this area we are huge fans of red meat production and farmers have enjoyed support from DRDAR from provision of feed to receiving bulls, rams, ewes and heifers to improve the condition of our livestock.

I don't have enough words to express how joyful we are to see this structure. This will deliver us from our tribulations of not having enough feed," said Tsuphe.

As DRDAR is commercialising livestock production in the province, the establishment of feedlots for livestock producers to fatten their animals for markets is one of the pillars of the program being implemented.



# ANIMAL HEALTH IS ONE OF DRDAR'S PRIORITIES



One of DRDAR's State Veterinary Surgeons providing animal health care to a horse owned by one of the rural villagers during one of many outreach programs aimed at keeping the provincial herd healthy.

## AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

The Eastern Cape Province has again, recently experienced an outbreak of African Horse Sickness (AHS), one of a number of diseases known to be potentially damaging to the livestock economy. African Horse Sickness (AHS) is a highly infectious, vector borne viral disease affecting horses, donkeys, mules and zebra. It occurs naturally on the African continent, and is characterised by respiratory and circulatory damage, accompanied by fever and loss of appetite. It is a viral disease with a very high mortality rate spread by midges (culicoides). The control of the disease is by means of registered vaccine produced by Onderstepoort Biological Products. It is strongly recommended that horses should be vaccinated during the period from 1 June -31 October each year.

- 3.6 mill animals dipped.
- 521 370 treated.
- 21 410 animals got sprace race.
- 96 772 got hand spray treatment.
- 445 288 Animals vaccinated.

By ZUKISWA GQAMANE

Providing veterinary services to clients in order to ensure healthy animals, safe animal products and welfare of people of South Africa is the main objective of the veterinary services of the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR).

The caring and skilled Vets protect humans and animals against zoonotic diseases including TB, rabies and anthrax, focusing on regulatory health by controlling diseases like red water, heart water, sheep scab and black quarter to name a few at the forefront of the services' offerings. DRDAR's Animal

Health Director, Dr Cebisa Mnqeta provided detailed statistics on what the department has done in keeping the province's herd healthy. He said in the 2017/18 financial year a total of 8 329 734 sheep were subjected to two treatments for the control of sheep scab and internal parasite to improve the quality and quantity of wool clip across all districts of the province.

"Sheep scab is easily spread between sheep and if left untreated its severity causes huge economic losses," he said.

The department also invested towards the control of tick-borne diseases through continuous dipping that protracted into

early months of winter. A total of 3 655 575 animals were treated through plunge dipping, 521 370 with pour-on, 21 410 through a spray race and 96 772 hand spray treatments were conducted.

Through its diseases monitoring program, the department identified the need to control rabies which led to 445 288 animals vaccinated.

However, the Eastern Cape province has experienced an increase in the number of rabies cases. "Sadly there has been a human fatality as a result of contact with a rabid dog. The rabies virus is present in the saliva of the infected animal and may be transmitted to humans through bites,

scratches or other wounds that break the skin and allow the infected saliva to enter the body," Mnqeta said.

To this end, there were 46 outbreaks in Chris Hani and OR Tambo districts where animals were vaccinated accordingly and on time. Whilst death in humans can be prevented through correct immediate administration of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), all provincial citizens are requested to join hands and assist in fighting the scourge of rabies by vaccinating all dogs and cats at no cost. The state offers free rabies vaccines at all state vet clinics of Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR).

## RABIES KILLS

Vaccinate your dogs and cats today to protect your family, friends, loved ones and pets from this dreaded disease. Also watch out for dog and cat bites... and report suspicious pets.

Our caring and experienced vets offer FREE vaccination to help pet owners stop this disease.

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