

**NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**



# **DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**Portfolio Committee and the DACERD August 2009**

**11/8/2009**

**Hon. Dodo Baloyi (Chairperson)**

**Portfolio Committee on Agriculture**

Progress Report on Issues referred to the Department during their Presentation of Budget for 2009/2010.

# North West Provincial Legislature

## Progress Report by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development (DACERD)

### 1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development held a meeting with the Department on 11 August 2009. The purpose of the meeting was for the department to present the progress report on issues that were referred to them during the presentation of budget for 2009/2010.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the meeting was to ensure that the Department has complied with the necessary requests and submit all the reports required from the department by the Portfolio Committee in order to identify the progress and or challenges encountered by the department to have a way forward in the betterment of the people's life within the Province.

### 3. Departmental Presentation

The department was expected to elaborate on the following issues:

- Rural Development Directorate
- Rural Development Strategy
- Finalization of repealing DED Act
- Projects funded by the department
- Taung Skull Project

The department presented two (2) documents, namely a policy document (Annex B) and a tabulated budget of the intended projects to focus on in this financial year 2009/10.

- 3.1 **Rural Development Directorate** -The MEC stated that a concept document regarding rural development has been developed and would be made available to the members for full information. He indicated that the document has full details in terms of the constraints encountered and how all that matters that relates to the latter will be addressed and that the aim of the rural development directorate is to assist in the alleviation of poverty by creating economic activities in the rural areas wherein the communities are facing high levels of poverty, low

income, poor economies etc. However, the departmental organogram that includes rural development directorate to ensure line of accountability has not yet been finalized and the recruitment of suitably qualified candidates is ongoing. The MEC assured the Portfolio Committee that a comprehensive report will be submitted as a follow-up of their presentation in order to have a way forward.

The agreement was reached that the document would be engaged by the department with the Portfolio Committee for deliberations of contents after it has been read and understood by the parties concerned. The MEC also indicated that, the rural development strategy will also be informed by the National Rural Development Strategic Plan.

The MEC mentioned that the department will be launching a pilot project in Mokgalwaneng (Ward 29) in Moses Kotane District. The project is also intended to be extended to the other regions. The latter has been categorized and tabulated with the budget for each activity to be carried during the fiscal year 2009/2010. It was indicated that the rural development workshop has been conducted with other stakeholders to have their inputs.

- 3.2 **Finalization of DED Act** – The department were denying that the report relating to the latter were requested from them hence the presentation report were consulted to proof that indeed it was among the series of requested reports that were to be submitted in 21 working days from the date of presentation. The MEC stated that the department is in the process of finalizing in consultation with relevant parties as there are certain legislative rules that must be followed. On completion, the report will be submitted to the Portfolio Committee.

3.3 **New Laws on wild animals.**

The department indicated that they are still in possession of outdated law that were passed in 1979 and that the bill is still with the state law advisers, however, the draft bill will be submitted to the Portfolio Committee

The Portfolio Committee emphasized that even though the idea was to boost the economy of the country as certain wild animals are expensive, the department should intervene to ensure that animals that are seen to be harmful to the people's lives are properly locked to ensure their safety and security.

### 3.4 Projects funded by the department

The Portfolio Committee pointed out that the projects within the Province are important as they were meant to create job opportunities particularly for youth empowerment and emerging farmers.

### 3.5 Taung Skull Project

The Committee requested the department to submit a report regarding the above-mentioned project as there have been allegations of corruptions on that project. It was emphasized that the public account report with resolutions as well as an investigation report can also be obtained from the office of the Premier as the project seems to be a fruitless expenditure. The report will be given to the Portfolio Committee within 14 working days.

## 4. Concerns raised by the Portfolio Committee

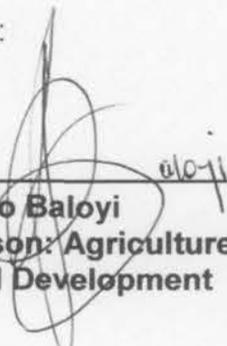
- The Portfolio Committee had concerns regarding a proposed project in Mokgalwaneng as to whether the communities were consulted to identify their needs or the department had only compiled the document based on their desired project activities.
- Project coverage in terms of including other villages surrounding Mokgalwaneng was not highlighted by the department.
- Departmental consultation with Limpopo Province was not clearly defined i.e. demarcation between the North-West Province and Limpopo as some of the roads belongs to Limpopo.
- Realistic expectations i.e. the timeframe does not seem to be realistic as some of the projects are hard to reach.
- Project beneficiaries in terms of benefiting all the diversified community e.g. addressing issues of people with disabilities etc.
- Budget constraints- specified budget by the department was not authentic enough to address highlighted projects.
- Negligence of field staff in intervening in time to the wild animals that are not locked by the owners and the managers of the farms.

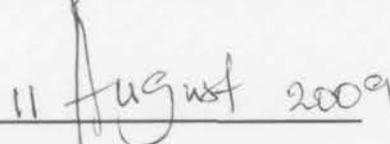
## 7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee concluded that the department has failed to submit the requested reports as per the request made during the budget presentation and that the department should be given 14 working days to submit the requested reports.

Signed by:

Date: 11 August 2009

  
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Hon. Dodo Baloyi  
Chairperson: Agriculture, Conservation, Environment  
and Rural Development

  
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11 August 2009