



read

Department:
**Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development**
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AgriCentre Building
Cnr. Dr. James Moroka and Stadium Rd
Private Bag X2039,
Mmabatho 2735
Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 (18) 389 5768
Fax: +27(18) 384 4571
tsholofelod@nwpg.gov.za

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES

DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Media Release

Wednesday, 02 March 2016

Welgeval farmers welcome drought relief efforts

Welgeval - Farmers in Welgeval and Obakeng Villages, Rustenburg municipality have welcomed drought aid government delivered recently to their communities. The national Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) as well as the Moses Kotane Local Municipality partnered to assist the two communities as some of identified villages and towns which are hard hit by the drought crisis. The National Deputy Minister of DAFF, General Bheki Cele visited the area on 29 February 2016. Accompanied by managers from READ and Moses Kotane Local Municipality, General Cele handed over the relief and visited the projects sites.

Under the theme: Entrenching resilience in drought relief and recovery towards a sustainable sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, initiated a practical and grassroots based leadership in drought relief measures in a form of road shows. The events are undertaken countrywide jointly with the Members of the Executive Committees (MECs) of the respective provinces supported by the municipal leadership.

WE BELONG

WE CARE

WE SERVE

The road shows are meant to oversee national relief operations and provide support as well as to showcase successful cases of relief and recovery operations. They are also used to identify areas requiring further intervention for enhanced risk reduction, response and recovery operations and to engage farmers and local role players and provide comfort and guidance in enhancing recovery efforts.

As part of the relief, READ delivered fodder to the 29 subsistence farmers. The department will also supply a 12 000 litre tanker to assist with water supply to the livestock. Tiger Brands as the main partner of the relief has committed assistance and will erect two boreholes, establish two community gardens, provide training and related assistance in the area, including distributing water. Tiger Brands also supplied the two communities with 150 of food parcels. The company has offered monitoring and evaluation expertise to ensure that the project positively impacts the community and improve agriculture production in the area. DAFF committed 2 community gardens and 400 fruit trees.

The municipality handed over 20 indigenous chicken and feed to nine households in the community and supplied them with medicine. 15 farmers who already own chicken were supplied with 10kg fowl mix each.

Speaking during the visit, General Cele pleaded with the communities to embrace all aid provided and participate in all projects as they are going to benefit them. He said he was aware that what was provided was not enough but was going to go a long way in sustaining them. General urged the community to learn to use the available resources to survive. Cele said the national government was aware of drought effect and had to prioritize funds to assist most affected communities. "While awaiting financial injection from the National coffers, DAFF allocated an amount of **R1 billion** towards agricultural drought following reprioritization of the sum of 20% of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima Letsema. It is notable that most of the provinces have also reprioritized funds within their Equitable

Share allocation to implement response and relief projects. The department is working closely with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture to ensure effective implementation of the identified interventions," he emphasised.

As part of drought relief, READ had an allocation of R25million for drought. R19m million was for fodder and R6m for livestock water. To date R24, 6 million has been spent benefitting at 13 688 farmers.

Photos:

7600: Government responds to drought crisis and handover relief

7797: Welgeval community joyful at the relief

ends

Issued by the Communication Services Directorate

Enquiries: Tsholofelo Dintwe

Acting Director: Communication Services

Tel: 018 389 5768/083 576 7655/079 946 7486

Email: tsholofelod@nwpg.gov.za