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



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Media Release

Jagersfontein - Food Security Projects handover to Veterans (MKVA) Group

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Jagersfontein: he Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) has established five agricultural Projects for the Zeerust based Veteran Group, Luthuli Detachments Primary Agricultural Cooperative. The 27 members are a group of veterans who were part of the armed struggle group that left the country since 1961. With many of them in old age, the Department has vowed to create projects that will help support them and their families.

The first project, a Goat Production was handed over to the group during a ceremony hosted by the Provincial Government led by the Premier Supra Mahumapelo and MEC Manketsi Tlhape at a Jagesfontein Farm on Monday, 15 May 2017. Work on the other projects which include vegetable tunnels, Spring Water Bottling Plant, Indigenous Chicken project and crop planting are underway with tunnel infrastructure being set up for the vegetable garden.

The MEC for READ, Manketsi Tlhape said the projects are a start-up for the elderly group to feed their families. She further said that it was important for government to extend a hand to this group which has spent time away from their families on behalf of the people of South Africa. "We have this hard working team coming back to their homeland and it is important for us to show them that we

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appreciate their participation in the struggle. We cannot have them living in dire situation when they have fought for this country," MEC Tlhape emphasised.

The Luthuli Detachments Primary Agricultural Cooperative is based at Kleinsmonsville Farm, a land donated by the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. MEC Tlhape said the projects are a start-up for the Farm which is envisaged to be turned into an Agri-Village.

North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo, expressed his gratitude to the efforts of the Department of READ in ensuring that the "critical role" played by the Veterans in the liberation struggle is recognised and rewarded appropriately.

One of the Veterans and a Chairperson of the cooperative, Mr Rantao said they appreciate the determination of government to ensure that their lives are changed for the better. He briefly reflected on their lives outside the country, a transitory which left some sad emotions for the audience.

Photo:

001 – The Luthuli Detachments Primary Agricultural Cooperative has been registered and the group is ready for business

002 – Some of the 80 goats handed over to the cooperative

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