



**MINISTER
AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

MR M SKWATSHA (MP)

2023 BUDGET VOTE SPEECH

20 JUNE 2023



Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development · Departement van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling · Muhasho wa zwa Vhulimi, Mbuedzedzo ya Mavu na Mveledziso ya Mahayani, · uMnyango Wezolimo, Izinguquko Kwezomhlaba Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya · Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvukiso wa Matikoxikaya · Litiko Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba Nektufufukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni · UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha nokuThuthukiswa kweeNdawo zemaKhaya · Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae · Lefapha la Temothuo, Kabotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae · Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae · ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle



Honourable House Chairperson;
Honourable Minister Didiza and other Ministers in attendance;
Deputy Minister Capa,
Other Deputy Ministers in attendance;
The MECs in attendance;
Honourable Chairperson of the Select Committee; Hon. Modise and
All Members of the National Council of Provinces;
Special Delegates;
SALGA Representative;
Board Members of our State-Owned Entities;
Senior Officials of the Department and our State-Owned Entities;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon to you all.

1. Introduction

Yesterday, 19 June 2023, marked 110 years since the 1913 Native Land Act became law. Its effects on the oppression, repression and suppression of land rights of our people, are still being felt today.

A lot has been written about its devastating impact on every aspect of life and livelihood of the indigenous inhabitants of the land. We therefore have a historical, moral and legal responsibility to deal with reparations and redistribution of land to reverse the impacts of the injustices that were visited on the people.



Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi – in his book titled - “Land Matters” reminds us about what former President Mandela said about land reform:

“The experience of all countries everywhere is that if such wrongs are not put right, then the bitterness lives on for many generations. Our land reform program helps redress the injustices of apartheid. It fosters national reconciliation and stability. It underpins economic growth and improves household welfare and food security” (Mandela 1998)”

Honourable Chairperson:

I will now highlight the programmes we are implementing to advance land reform.

2. Land Redistribution

2.1. Land acquisition

To achieve the goal of equitable access of the land as enshrined in the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of South Africa, the Department acquires and allocates land under the land redistribution program. This is guided by the Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation policy as adopted by Cabinet in 2020.

In the 2021/22 financial year, we reported that we acquired 57 000 hectares of land.

In the 2022/23 financial year we acquired 51 000 hectares of land through the Pro-Active Acquisition Land Acquisition strategy (PLAS), exceeding our target of 35 000 hectares.



The Northern Cape and North West provinces over-achieved in terms of the targets they were given, whilst other provinces did not perform as per the Annual Performance Plan.

In 2023/24 we intend to allocate 36 771 hectares with our allocated budget of R427 million.

This target of 36 771 is broken down per province as follows:

Eastern Cape	3 062 Hectares
Free State	4 217 Hectares
Gauteng	750 Hectares
KwaZulu-Natal	2 099 Hectares
Limpopo	2 738 Hectares
Mpumalanga	2 310 Hectares
North West	5 273 Hectares
Northern Cape	15196 Hectares
Western Cape	1 126 Hectares

I should mention that the high land prices are still a challenge, the rejection by landowners of values determined by the Valuer General remains a reality and a challenge, especially in the Western Cape. This delays the finalisation of some land claims and land reform in general.



2.2 Land Tenure Reform

In the previous financial year, we acquired 5 270 hectares. The Department has set aside a budget of R218 million for acquisition of land to address security of tenure. In this regard the Department intends to acquire 5685 hectares of land in the current financial year.

The land to be acquired for tenure security addresses different land tenure needs including settlement of the Labour Tenants applications and Extension of Security of Tenure Act No. 62 of 1997 (ESTA) occupiers.

In this regard the allocation to provinces is as follows:

Eastern Cape:	R27 783 000 (Twenty-seven million, seven hundred and eighty-three thousand);
Free State	R14 683 000 (Fourteen million, six hundred and eighty-three thousand);
Gauteng	R14 038 000 (Fourteen million and thirty-eight thousand);
Kwa Zulu-Natal	R70 004 000 (Seventy million and four thousand);
Limpopo	R 2 558 000 (Two million, five hundred and fifty-eight thousand);
Mpumalanga	R63 306 000 (Sixty-three million, three hundred and six thousand);
North West	R16 712 000 (sixteen million, seven hundred and twelve thousand);
Northern Cape	R 1 200 000 (One million, two hundred thousand); and
Western Cape	R8 000 000 (Eight million).



2.3 Labour Tenants and the Special Master

The Office of the Special Master and the Department are having a conversation about how that office can be capacitated more so that it can effectively supervise, monitor and oversee its mandate, as per by the Land Claims Court. There are still a number of labour tenants' applications which must be finalised. The majority of these are in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

2.4 Communal Property Associations (CPAs)

In the past financial year - 2022/2023, we registered eighteen (18) Communal Property Associations (CPAs) and over 3 000 CPAs members received training on governance of these entities to ensure compliance with the CPA Act. We will further train 715 executive members on governance of these CPAs in the current financial year.

In 2021 we said that we will be starting with an audit of CPAs and that it would take two financial years. Today we can report that the audit was finalised at the end of April 2023 and the Department must still receive the report and consider the way forward.

The Provincial Presidential Izimbizo program really fast-tracked the Ministry's interaction with our CPAs. Although we were unable to meet with all CPAs in a specific province, led by the Minister, we were at least able to interact with those that needed urgent attention.

We thank the Honourable President for this initiative. After the Presidential Imbizo in Carolina, Mpumalanga, the Minister assigned the



two Deputy Ministers to interact with CPAs in the three Districts, working with the MEC, we can report that this task was done and has had a positive impact. We visited Gert Sibande, Nkangala and Ehlanzeni Districts. Similar work was done in other provinces as well in collaboration with the respective MECs.

CPAs themselves must assist the Department by making sure that they work together and resolve their problems rather than taking each other to Court. More time must be spent on working the land and the business.

It must be emphasised that the executive is leading on behalf of the beneficiaries, for all the transactions they do on the land, they must account to the membership. The membership should have a voice on what is happening on their land and not be spectators.

2.5 Communal Tenure Reform

2.5.1 TRANCRAA

The process to expedite the transfer of land situated in the 23 rural areas (so called TRANCRAA areas) in four provinces in South Africa continues.

Progress has been made, a total of 106 000 hectares have been transferred to the communities in the Eastern Cape (8 314 ha) and Northern Cape (98 170 ha). These deserving communities must receive their land back.

When we addressed the National Assembly on 09 May 2023 during the budget vote debate, we indicated that the Department intends to give Title Deeds to TRANCRAA communities, Eksteenskuil and Concordia in



Northern Cape and Enon-Bersheba in the Eastern Cape - within this financial year.

We can already report to this House that we held a successful Title Deed handover ceremony In Kirkwood, Sarah Baartman District on 09 June 2023 of the Enon-Besheba TRANCRAA area.

2.5.2 Communal Land

Previously, we reported that DALRRD in collaboration with Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Department of Justice & Correctional Services concluded the consultation process by hosting a Summit which resulted in 38 outcomes that are currently being processed through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Agriculture and Land Reform and shall be presented to Cabinet for approval.

The Department further hosted a seminar with academics to solicit further inputs. The Department has started with the development of the new policy and Bill on Communal Land Tenure and Administration to address the communal land tenure and land administration issues. The draft Bill is already being processed through the Cluster system of our administration.

3. Office of the Valuer General

In fulfilling the vision of setting itself in the market as the centre of excellence and innovation in respect of all property valuations, with a primary focus on land reform, the Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) is making remarkable progress.

In the previous financial year, the OVG received valuation requests,



which are over 200% higher than the previous financial year due to the increase in the number of valuation requests from land reform programme and the OVG'S new clients. The OVG having successfully boarded the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs and Department of Water and Sanitation, is expecting to attract new government departments in the current financial year.

I am also pleased to report that the Ministerial Advisory Panel which was established in 2019 to review the Property Valuation Act 17 of 2014, has completed its work and the final report is enroute to the Minister for her consideration. This report, which aims to provide recommendations which will improve the systems and structures of the OVG.

In the same breath, the OVG is further looking forward to investing in a formal programme of digital transformation. This digital transformation strategy is expected to transform and accelerate the delivery of the set strategic outcomes as defined in the 2023/24 Annual Performance Plan. The human capacity challenges that have been encountered in the past three years are also receiving attention through the review of the current operating model.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the OVG is still targeting to complete 100% of valuations received from Land Tenure Reform, Land Redistribution and Commission on Restitution of Land Rights as defined in the it 2023/24 APP.

4. Restitution

2023 marks 29 years since the enactment of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994). We are determined to continue to



highlight the importance of addressing the past land injustices, through the restitution process. While we celebrate the milestones achieved for the thousands of people who have benefited through this programme we are mindful of the frustration of those who are yet to receive their land back.

The Commission is committed to accelerating the settlement and finalisation of land claims through a backlog reduction strategy and the close monitoring of performance through tout the year. with increased targets and implementing.

A total of 82 761 land claims have been settled to date and many Communities who were previously displaced have received their land with some having opted for financial compensation.

The Commission continues to report to the Land Claims Court in line with the LAMOSA constitutional court judgment.

Performance

The Commission settled 355 and finalised 429 claims at a cost of R3 914 579 905.61 in the last financial year. It has met its planned targets as well spent its budget allocation. The planned targets for this financial year is 349 settled and 406 to be finalised.

Over the life of the Commission, a total of 3,8 million hectares of land have been acquired for claimants at a cost of over R25 billion. Financial compensation of R21 billion was paid to the beneficiaries. This land restoration and financial compensation have benefited more than 2,2 million individual beneficiaries who are part of 452 829 households. Out



of these households, 174 302 are female headed while 1 240 are headed by persons with disabilities.

There are many challenges that we continue to face in the process of settling claims which delay the settlement process. These are both internal and external factors which we continue to address. **In certain instances, we have to work in a District Development Model approach with other spheres of Government – in order to finalise a claim – A case in point is the District Six Claim, without the support of the City of Cape Town, it is difficult to achieve certain milestones on the project.**

We still have a total of 9921 claims outstanding old order land claims that the Commission still needs to process.

The sustainability of some projects remains a challenge which is owed to the insufficient post-settlement support, conflicts and instability of the communal property associations. The Commission continues working to find meaningful solutions and setting up relevant structures towards ensuring the smooth transition and sustainability of these projects.

5. Conclusion

Let's all strive to make the difference our communities and claimants expect of us.

I thank you.

