

# “Please find land for small scale farmers,” says DDG Swartz.



**Deputy Director-General,  
Dr Moshe Swartz**

By Vuyani Nkasayi

In Dr Moeshe Swartz’s view, the department should make sure that land is acquired and redistributed to small-scale farmers who are farming in and around townships.

Dr Swartz, Deputy Director-General responsible for Economic Development, Trade and Marketing was speaking during a visit to the Flakaland small-scale farmers at Mbekweni, Paarl, Western Cape.

Farmers in this area farm under horrible conditions, due to a shortage of land, unhygienic environment, shortage of water, shortage of electricity.

Mr Sakhele Mcimbi, secretary of Flakaland Farmers Association, says the situation is terrible.

“We are facing danger everyday. Our livestock are killed by pitbulls. Authorities impound our livestock, and we must pay fines. The environment is unhealthy because of overpopulation,” said Mr Mcimbi.

Currently, the Drakenstein Local Municipality together Department of Human Settlements department are building RDP houses just next to the farmers. As part of solving the problem, Dr Swartz has called all the stakeholders (three spheres of government and small-scale farmers) to come together and look at possibilities of finding land for these farmers. “I know there are farms around this area, let us find land. Our responsibility is to acquire land, and now is the time to find the land. Government is not here to cause community problems,” said Dr Swartz.

These small-scale farmers are involved in livestock farming (cattle, goats, and sheep) and pig farming. Their produce is sold to local markets. Dr Swartz was accompanied by the acting Chief Director of Provincial Shared Service Centre, Mr Lubabalo Mbekeni, and officials from Drakenstein Municipality.



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