



RURAL DEVELOPMENT



RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM

The implementation of rural development is expected to result in vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all. The essence of such a community would be measured through the following:

- food security
- rapid and sustained economic growth
- intellectual development
- environmental sustainability
- healthy rural communities
- political maturity
- social stability and growth
- self-reliant and confident communities
- fairness in line with the Bill of Rights
- social cohesion.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's strategy to achieve sustainable rural development is "agrarian transformation". It will focus on establishing rural business initiatives, cooperatives, cultural initiatives, agro-industries and rural settings; empowering rural people and communities (especially women and the youth); and upgrading economic, social, information and communications infrastructure and public amenities and facilities in villages and small rural towns.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

During 2009, the South African Government conceptualised CRDP.

The key thrust of the CRDP framework is an integrated programme of rural development, land reform and agrarian change, whose strategic focus is social cohesion and development.

The CRDP is premised on three phases: Phase One, which focuses on meeting basic human needs; Phase Two, which has large-scale infrastructure development as driver; and, Phase Three, with the emergence of rural industrial and credit financial sectors, which is driven by small, medium and micro-enterprises and village markets.

The department has implemented the CRDP in 21 sites throughout South Africa and aims to roll this out to 160 sites by 2014. Lessons learnt from these CRDP sites indicate that the challenges in rural areas include underutilisation and/or unsustainable use of natural resources; poor or lack of access to socio-economic and cultural infrastructure and services,

Riemvasmaak was chosen as a pilot site for the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme in the Northern Cape during 2009 when the last portion of the community's land claim was finalised and by April 2010, the following had been achieved:

- the Provincial Government constructed a handling facility and livestock water point at Sending (Mission)
- fruit trees and seedlings were distributed at Vredesvallei
- construction of the healthcare facility had commenced
- the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development obtained an office in Kakamas
- the department embarked on veterinary campaigns to ensure livestock health in the area
- the department was testing all bore holes on new farms as well as constructing handling facilities for new farms
- border fences were upgraded
- the department also developed an infrastructure plan for the 46 000 ha that were handed over in 2009.

public amenities and facilities and government services; lack of access to clean water or lack of water resources for both household and agricultural development; low literacy, skills levels and migratory labour practices; decay of the social fabric; and unexploited opportunities in agriculture, tourism, mining and manufacturing.

In each area where the CRDP is being implemented, a new vibrancy has been created around working together, involving communities, the three spheres of government and the private sector. This has enabled communities to mobilise resources from all sectors of government to enhance delivery.

An inclusive CRDP stakeholder participation model has been developed in the form of the Council of Stakeholders, functioning as a partner in planning, implementation and monitoring. Through this inclusive body, communities themselves have become central to their own development.

Through the work undertaken at the CRDP sites, and in conjunction with fellow departments at national, provincial and local government level, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform erected infrastructure such as housing, water, sanitation, pack-sheds, community halls, multipurpose centres, fencing, early childhood development centres, satellite police stations and renovated schools and clinics.

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The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform introduced the Land Tenure Security Bill in 2010, which repeals the Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997 as well as the Labour Tenants Act, 1996 and is informed by the following objectives:

- protecting relative rights for farm workers
- strengthening the rights of farm dwellers
- enhancing food security through a sustained production discipline.

The department initiated a new youth skills development and employment programme, the National Rural Youth Service Corps. The main goal is to develop a cadre of young community paraprofessionals and artisans who will take responsibility for the development of their own communities.

Four young people, of whom one must be a person with a disability, are expected to be enlisted into the programme from each of the 2 872 rural wards. At least 50% of these must be women.

The contractual period, including the training period is 24 months. This process will lead to the employment and skilling of almost 12 000 youths, of whom almost 3 000 should be youth with disabilities.

Land reform

The introduction of the CRDP, of which land reform is an integral part, has necessitated that the approach be overhauled and new strategies adopted. While achieving equitable distribution of land remains a fundamental policy of government, there is an even more urgent need to ensure that land reform is measured not only through equity but also through productivity, leading to enhanced food security for all, job creation and skills training among beneficiaries.

Categorisation of land needs

From April 2010, the department is implementing stringent criteria to meet the different land needs of beneficiaries. The land needs of qualifying beneficiaries are divided into three categories.

The first category comprises a large majority of landless poor who need some land for shelter and some for household food production. This group includes about 2,8 million people who live on commercial farm land without any security of



tenure; landless poor who live in and around rural small towns without meaningful incomes; and people from overcrowded former homelands.

These land needs will be met through the Land Redistribution Programme by providing small units of land to accommodate their specific needs. A support package to meet these specific needs was being developed and was expected to be implemented during 2010/11.

The second category comprises small-scale farmers with proven ability and commitment to farm but who do not have the means to expand as they do not have enough land, access to finance and the required technical support. This category is largely found in communal areas and on commercial farms. It is in this area where the department aims to intensify production discipline, skills development, mentorship and job creation as conditions for government support.

The third category consists of relatively established black farmers who are already entrepreneurs. They largely achieved their success despite limited or lack of government support.

The department will measure the successful implementation of land reform through the number of jobs created, increased incomes and a critical mass of successful farmers who will contribute to the gross domestic product and balance of payments.

Land redistribution

The Redistribution Programme is largely implemented through the Provision of Land and Assistance Act, 1993.

By 2010, 5,9 million ha of land had been acquired through redistribution and restitution.

The tenure issues of millions of South Africans living and working on farms, and in communal areas and small rural towns remain a challenge for government.

By April 2010, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform completed the development of the *Green Paper on Agrarian Transformation, Rural Development and Land Reform*, which is intended to culminate in a new land policy framework and legislation, which should consolidate all land-related laws.



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Recapitalisation and development

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform prioritises the recapitalisation and development of all distressed land-reform projects implemented since 1994.

The department will establish strategic partnerships to provide technical support to all struggling land-reform projects by working with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Department of Water Affairs; the Land Bank; and social partners in the private sector.

The department will conduct farm assessments and develop credible development plans as conditions for support, through social contracts with all beneficiaries.

Among the conditions that will be attached to assistance, production discipline will be paramount. Twenty-five percent of the department's baseline allocation will be set aside for this purpose. This funding will complement other funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and provincial equitable share of relevant provincial government departments.

Recapitalisation and development will be further extended to black farmers in distress who are struggling to meet their loan obligations with the Land Bank and other financial institutions.

The recapitalisation and development initiative of the department underscores the seriousness of government in ensuring that there is food security for all.

Land administration

The department aims to provide value-added public land information and support services to clients and to ensure the efficient administration of state land.

Land-rights management

The department aims to provide tenure security that creates socio-economic opportunities for people on farms and in communal areas to ensure vibrant and sustainable communities characterised by social cohesion and development.

Geo-spatial services, technology development and disaster management

The department is responsible for the national control survey network, the national mapping and aerial imagery programmes and the provision of geo-spatial information services.

Cadastral survey management

The Cadastral Survey Management Branch aims to provide efficient cadastral survey-management services and cadastral information services in support of land delivery and development.

Deeds registration

The 10 deeds registries are located in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, King William's Town, Vryburg, Mthatha and Nelspruit. These offices register deeds and documents relating to real rights in more than eight million registered land parcels consisting of township erven, farms, agricultural holdings, sectional title units and sectional title exclusive-use areas in terms of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 and the Sectional Titles Act, 1986.

Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (RLR)

The CRLR is a statutory body set up in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994, as amended. The role of the commission is to provide redress to victims of dispossession of rights in land, as a result of racially discriminatory laws and practices that took place after 19 June 1913.

The overall approach in settling the 3 909 outstanding claims will be in line with the principles of the CRDP, focusing among other things on the profiling of households and the employment creation model as well as building capacity for conflict resolution.

The department aims to complete research on all the outstanding land claims by December 2011.

