



RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM

In 2009, the Department of Land Affairs became the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

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Rural development, food security and land reform

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's key objective is the achievement of vibrant and sustainable rural communities. The overall outcome has to be social cohesion and development, meaning shared growth and development, full employment, equity and cultural progress. The following strategic goals or enablers will be pursued:

- establishing business initiatives, agro-industries, cooperatives, cultural initiatives and local markets in rural settings
- empowering rural people and communities, especially women and the youth, through facilitating and mediating organisational and institutional capabilities and abilities to take charge of their collective destiny
- training rural people in technical skills, combining them with indigenous know-how and knowledge, to mitigate community vulnerability to, especially, climate change, soil erosion, drought, snow, animal diseases, flooding, tornadoes, other natural disasters, emergencies, hunger and food insecurity
- revitalising and revamping old, and creating new, economic, social and information and communications infrastructure and public amenities and facilities in villages and rural towns.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme is a national collective strategy to fight poverty, hunger, unemployment and

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme will be implemented at seven additional sites across the country, benefiting 21 wards with the target of sites in 160 wards by 2014.

Food security, land reform and agricultural support programmes will be expanded to increase the number of small-scale farmers.

Government will put in place measures to reduce water losses that are being caused by leaking pipes and inadequate infrastructure.



The former Department of Land Affairs achieved a milestone in advancing the implementation of its Disability Strategy by producing the first-ever Braille atlas of maps in Africa. It was launched in March 2009 at Philadelphia Secondary School in Soshanguve, Gauteng.



lack of development in rural areas. It was launched in August 2009 by President Jacob Zuma at Muyexe Village, Limpopo.

Government pledged over R2,6 billion in conditional grants to provinces over the medium term. This will be used for agricultural infrastructure, training, advisory services, marketing and for upgrading agricultural colleges. One of the priorities is to ensure that land reform, through redistribution and restitution, is more coherently linked to the creation of livelihoods for the poor.

A critical part of the Rural Development Programme is to stimulate agricultural production to contribute to food security. Government will support the provision of agricultural implements and input to support emerging farmers and households nationally, also making agricultural loans accessible and ensuring high-quality agricultural extension services.

Government will also intensify the implementation of the Rural Transport Development Programme. The objective is to promote rural transport infrastructure and services. Transport is critical for enhanced socio-economic activity and a better quality of life.

Land reform

South Africa's land reform is premised on three programmes: land tenure reform, redistribution and restitution. While the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform implements land tenure reform and redistribution, the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR) implements the Land Restitution Programme.

In October 2009, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform was restructured. At the time, it consisted of four branches, namely Land and Tenure Reform; Restitution; Land Planning and Information; and Corporate Services.

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In April 2009, the former Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Ms Lulama Xingwana, handed over 2 740,9316 ha of land to the KwaDube community in the Ilembe District Municipality, in KwaZulu-Natal, at a cost of more than R754 million to the State. A total of 687 households and 4 206 individuals from the community benefited from the settlement.



Land-reform implementation

The aim of land reform is to redistribute 30% of white-owned commercial agricultural land by 2014. To achieve this, 3% has to be redistributed every year. The branch delivered 443 600,4886 ha during the 2008/09 financial year. In total, 500 projects were approved and implemented with 14 457 individuals benefiting from these projects.

In line with the objective of increasing the pace of land delivery, an implementation framework for the Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) was developed. Land acquired through PLAS during 2008/09 totalled 226 986,1940 ha, which had been registered in the name of the State.

Plans for the disposal of land to potential beneficiaries are being finalised. Land is expected to be disposed or transferred to beneficiaries in terms of the provisions of the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development Grant (LRAD), the Settlement and Production Land Acquisition Grant (SPLAG) and the Commonage Grant.

Land acquired through the LRAD, Commonage Grant and SPLAG totalled 216 614,2946 ha in 2008/09.

The LRAD provides grants to black South African citizens to access land for agricultural purposes. The LRAD encourages applicants to design what works best for them. Beneficiaries can access a range of grants between R111 152 and R430 857, depending on the amount of their own contribution in kind, labour and/or cash. Beneficiaries must provide a contribution of at least R13 000. The grant and beneficiary's own contribution are calculated per individual (18 years and older). If people choose to apply as a group, the required contribution and the total grant are both scaled up by the number of individuals represented in the group. The approval of the grant is based on the viability of the proposed

project, which takes into account total project costs and projected profitability.

Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights

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.

Since its establishment in 1994, the CRLR had settled 75 400 out of 79 696 land claims lodged in 2009, at a cost of R20 billion. It is expected that all outstanding claims could be settled by 2011.

At a land hand-over ceremony in June 2009, 172 households from the Riemvasmaak community in the Northern Cape received title deeds in respect of 46 595 ha of commercial agricultural land comprising several properties in the area.

The return of the land to the Riemvasmaak community was planned to coincide with the 96th anniversary of the infamous Natives Land Act, 1913, promulgated by the apartheid government, resulting in the forceful removals of a large number of black people in South Africa.

A total amount of R70 million was approved by the State as part of this second phase of the settlement of the Riemvasmaak community claim.



