



Rural Development and Land Reform

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) is committed to ensuring that South Africans in rural areas enjoy the same benefits as those in urban areas regarding the human rights and basic dignity guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

The department's key priorities are:

- rolling out the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) to all rural municipalities
- improving productivity in land reform projects through effective implementation of the Recapitalisation and Development Programme
- expediting the finalisation of land claims
- improving corporate governance and ensuring enhanced service delivery
- implementing proper change management and innovation strategies
- enhancing the efficiency of information management systems.

Legislation and policies

The Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act of 2014 extends the deadline for land claims to June 2019.

The amendment also seeks to criminalise false and fraudulent claims that have been deemed a waste of taxpayers' money, where people submit land claims, knowing that they do not have a valid historic claim to a piece of land.

The Act also simplifies the procedure for the appointment of judges to the Land Claims Court, and the amendment of certain provisions aimed at promoting the effective implementation of the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994.

Extending the deadline for the lodging of claims was in line with the proposals of the National Development Plan, the CRDP and other growth strategies intended to promote national reconciliation and social cohesion.

The Act seeks to reopen the window for persons or communities dispossessed of their land due to past discriminatory laws and policies to lodge claims for their properties.

Cabinet also approved the submission of the report on the Audit of Registered State Land and a desktop analysis of private land ownership in South Africa for submission to Parliament. The land audit will be used to enhance the integrity of the land register, which will serve as the basis for enhanced land planning and administration, including other functions relating to property portfolio management and improved delivery of services.

About 1,15 million land parcels have been surveyed: 14% of land in South Africa is state-owned, 79% is privately owned and 7% has not been registered.

In August 2013, President Jacob Zuma signed into law the Spatial and Land Use Management Act of 2013. It seeks to bridge the racial divide in spatial terms and transform the settlement patterns that put a considerable burden on public resources. President Zuma also assented to the Cooperatives Amendment Act of 2013, which amended the Cooperatives Act of 2005.

The amendment provides for associate membership of cooperatives, the annual submission of information to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, categories of primary cooperative and the national apex cooperatives.

Cadastral survey management

Cadastral surveying is the survey and demarcation of land for the purpose of defining parcels of land for registration in a land registry. Cadastral surveying in South Africa is undertaken exclusively by or under the control of professional land surveyors.

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 of 1937 and the Sectional Titles Act of 1986.

Animal and Veld Management Programme (AVMP)

In September 2013, the DRDLR unveiled the AVMP. The AVMP is aimed at providing relief for farmers in rural areas operating under challenging circumstances.

The programme will also help with soil rehabilitation, spatial decongestion and re-greening of the environment. It is part of government's intervention towards reversing the legacy of the 1913 Natives Land Act, which led to the majority of black people being confined to 13% of the land, resulting in challenges of overcrowding and overgrazing in communal areas.

The department will identify farmers in communal areas who have showed potential for successful farming. Based on their track record, such farmers will be moved into some of the state-owned farms to enable them to expand their farming operations.

Comprehensive Rural Development Programme

The CRDP is focused on enabling rural people to take control of their lives, with support from government. The programme aims to effectively deal with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources through an integrated broad-based agrarian transformation and the strategic investment in economic and social infrastructure that will benefit rural communities.

The DRDLR contributed to the increased number of households with access to sanitation by 10%, 10,45% access to electricity, 4% access to clean water, distributed 39 331 rainwater harvesting tanks and constructed 37 km of water pipeline in North West.

Bulk water and sanitation infrastructure have been constructed in KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape and North West. Rain water harvesting tanks have been distributed throughout CRDP sites.

In August 2013, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development planted a variety of vegetables and fruit trees for 70 families in Marikana, Segwaelane, Wonderkop and at the local home-based care centre near Rustenburg.

This was aimed at encouraging backyard gardening in rural communities. Garden tools, rakes, spades, forks, watering cans, fertiliser and spray bottles were also handed over.

This project forms part of the DRDLR's One Family, One Food Garden Campaign, which aims to combat vitamin and mineral deficiency, which is the leading cause of malnutrition in many rural areas.

By January 2013, 2 656 Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) beneficiaries had been taught technical enterprise in various trades; 52 councils of stakeholders had been established as representative community forums; the CRDP had been rolled out to 157 rural wards; 143 698 poor households had been profiled to assess their needs; 692 km of fencing had been erected in the CRDP wards; and 96 km of roads had been upgraded.

Rural Enterprise Infrastructure Development (REID)

REID aims to create an enabling institutional environment for vibrant and sustainable rural communities through the participatory approach, which is used to assess the needs of the rural areas through the profiling of households and communities.

The Technical Support, Skills Development and Nurturing unit provides technical support to the institutions and structures established in rural communities, through skills development and capacity building. It is also responsible for the implementation of the job creation model, which is aimed at improving households' basic needs, as well as promoting economic livelihoods.

The Rural Livelihoods and Food Security unit forms strategic partnerships that are important to the improvement of rural livelihoods, by promoting both economic development and the development of rural enterprises.

These strategic partnerships also facilitate value-added services such as agri-processing and the establishment of village industries and enterprises. The strategic partners involved are from the private sector, state-owned enterprises and international organisations.

The Institutional Building and Mentoring unit is responsible for facilitating, building and mentoring institutions in rural communities. This function involves the identification of existing institutions and the assessment of needs, including building new institutions to ensure sustainable development.

National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec)

During 2013, 12 881 rural youth enrolled for the skills-training programme. Narysec youths between the ages of 18 and 35 are recruited from the 3 000 rural wards, irrespective of gender and disability. These youths are trained in various skills such as waste-water management, water purification, construction, electricity and agriculture so that they are marketable and can open their own businesses.

Land Reform Programme

The principles which underpin the new approach to sustainable land reform are:

- deracialisation of the rural economy

- democratic and equitable land allocation and use across gender, race and class
- strict production discipline for guaranteed national food security.

The centenary of the Natives Land Act of 1913 promulgated on 19 June 1913, which is seen as providing the cornerstone of laws that followed, for a systematic process of land dispossession by the State was commemorated in 2013.

By the end of January 2013, 77 979 claims had been settled which was 97% of the total claims, translating to 1443 million ha and benefiting 13 968 female-headed households and 672 persons with a disability.

Strategic support was provided to 416 new emerging farmers through recapitalisation in addition to the existing 595 farms that were supported at a cost of R1,2 billion.

Work on revitalising eight irrigation schemes, namely Ncora and Keiskamma Hoek in the Eastern Cape; Taung in North West; Vaalharts in the Northern Cape; Nkomazi in Mpumalanga; and Tugela Ferry, Nsuze and Bululwane in KwaZulu-Natal commenced.

The department also revived the Butterworth abattoir and tannery to assist local communal livestock farmers to become part of the red meat value-chain.

A total of 823 300 ha had been acquired and redistributed since 2009. Of this, 7 000 ha were allocated to provide the core estate for the Cradock Bio-ethanol Project in the Eastern Cape.

Smallholder support programmes are being reviewed and a smallholder plan is being developed.

These plans are supported by some agro-processing programmes, including soya bean processing, canning, biofuels, furniture, and food processing industries, as well as small-scale maize milling in rural areas.

Other developments include the launch of the Zero Hunger Programme and the Aquaculture Programme. Zero Hunger creates opportunities for the smallholder sector to grow by

Government's aim for the youth is to enable them to develop their own rural areas once they are fully skilled.

The Eastern Cape benefited from 2 603 enterprise development jobs, including 1 971 infrastructure jobs and an intake of 2 400 Narysec youths, while KwaZulu-Natal scooped a total of 5 047 jobs. The Free State had 1 613 rural development jobs, Gauteng 3 993, Limpopo 4 274, Mpumalanga 2 635, Northern Cape 2 275, North West 3 048 and the Western Cape 4 405.

opening up institutional markets for their benefit, such as the School Nutrition Programme, hospitals and clinics.

As part of the implementation of the National Climate Change Response Policy, long-term adaptation scenarios are developed to determine which sectors may be climate sensitive and to develop response strategies.

Recapitalisation and development

During the past four years, another 7 000 jobs were created during the department's implementation of the Recapitalisation and Development Programme that saw 1 269 farms that had been lying fallow being converted into 100% productive farms.

The DRDLR's service-delivery programmes have created over 40 000 jobs.

Various rural development jobs have come about because of such initiatives as constructing bridges, schools, health facilities, roads and other infrastructure-related activities.

Infrastructure jobs were created during the first phase of rural development at identified rural development pilot sites and the CRDP sites in all nine provinces.

During the implementation of these infrastructure and enterprise projects, several rural villagers, especially youths and women, benefited from the accompanying skills development.

This initiative culminated in 17 279 people gaining skills in various trades such as brickmaking, road paving, and the construction of houses and bridges.

