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PROVINCIAL  
REPUBLIC

# **DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET VOTE SPEECH  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT –  
VOTE 4  
DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, Ms NANDI  
NDALANE  
TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**DATE: 26 JULY 2019**

Honourable Speaker,  
Honourable Premier,  
Honourable Deputy Speaker,  
Honourable colleagues in the Executive Council,  
Chief Whip of the Majority Party,  
Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature,  
Leadership of the Ruling Party and other Political Parties present here today,  
Chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee,  
Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Led by Kgoshi Malesela Dikgale  
Magoshi, Tihosi, Vho-Thovele,  
Members of the Limpopo Agricultural Advisory Council,  
Officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,  
Representatives of the Farming Community and Civil Society Organisations,  
Representatives of the Business Sector and other Sector Partners,  
Members of the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
A very good morning to you all

It is with a great sense of pride that this Budget Speech is presented following the burial of our struggle veteran and the hero of our people, General Lesiba Bra

Ike Maphoto. As we laid him to his final resting place over the weekend, I would like to pay a special tribute to him and greatly acknowledge and appreciate his selfless sacrifice and dedication to the freedom and democracy of our country. At the same token I would like to pay tribute to comrade Joy Matshoge, who led this Department with great ability. I further would like to extend my tribute to the struggle heroine of freedom, Mme Joyce Mashamba, who also led this important Department. We are now riding on their stewardship and we are grateful for their contribution. Today we are building on the strengthened foundation these heroines laid. We are proud to confidently talk about food security for the masses of our people, mainly due to the contribution to these heroines of our people. May the souls of the two servants of the people rest in eternal peace.

Honourable Speaker

Our country is engulfed by the usual word of the new dawn as presented by President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. Over the last few years our country went through a difficult period with, amongst others, increasing unemployment, increased levels of poverty and many other social ills. However, that brief period has come and gone. We are now in the era of a new dawn, great hope and stability. In the State of the Nation Address (SONA) President Ramaphosa detailed his dream of the new era which therefore becomes the dream of our country. Many of us were happy by the dream, hoping very well that this attainable dream shall bring a better life to all South Africans. Ramaphosa said “I dream of a South Africa where the first entirely new city built in the democratic era rises, with skyscrapers, schools, universities, hospitals and factories.”As a country we share the President’s dream and indeed it shall come to be realised. As the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) we find resonance with the President’s dream, particularly when he said, “We must be a country that can feed itself and that harnesses the latest advances in smart agriculture.”We totally embrace the President’s dream and assertion and we shall double our efforts and spare no strength in eventually attaining this very realistic dream.

Honourable Speaker

In his State of the Province Address (SOPA), Premier Stanley Chupu Mathabatha repeated and embraced the President’s new dawn. In his address Mathabatha said, “The new dawn is upon us. The dark clouds of despair and hopelessness are retreating to settle in the comfort of distant memory. The people of Limpopo have given the governing African National Congress overwhelming majority in the last polls, a clear vote of confidence in this movement of the people by the people. We therefore dare not fail our people. We will not take that victory for granted. Instead it will propel us to deliver on our mandate, our targets and to spend our budget.

### **Performance of the Agricultural Sector**

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery sector has in the past four years suffered the longest negative growth, due to prolonged drought. In 2015 and 2016 the sector experienced eight consecutive contractions quarterly. The sector only started to recover in 2017. The recovery was attributed mainly to good rains in the 2016/17 season, which led to increased production of maize and improved conditions of horticultural crops.

Throughout 2017 the agricultural sector showed some new hope and propelled the country's positive economic recovery throughout, closing the year with 3.1% growth in the 4th quarter of 2017.

In 2018 the sector regressed due to a slowdown of production activities in the first quarter for many high value agricultural commodities due to drought and erratic weather conditions during summer. It became stable during the 3rd and 4th quarters, with 13.7% and 7.9% positive growth respectively. In overall the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery sector recorded -4.8% in 2018 due to low production of field crops and horticultural products.

On employment creation, the agricultural sector remains a key contributor to employment, not only at primary level, but at both downstream and up stream. From the StatsSA report the agricultural sector in Limpopo is the second largest employment contributor in the sector, following Western Cape.

According to the StatsSA Quarterly Labour Survey latest data, the Province suffered, two consecutive quarters of job losses, 10 000 jobs in the 4th quarter (2018) and 14 000 jobs in the first quarter of 2019. The sliding patterns of the sector employment could be attributed to field crop production that declined drastically in the Province, due to profitability amongst other factors.

Honourable Speaker, despite the setbacks, this sector continues to take centre stage as one of the key strategic economic sectors with potential to support the acceleration of inclusive economic growth and job creation. Agricultural exports also make an important source of revenue for the economy, through foreign income earnings.

As outlined by President Ramaphosa in his first SONA of the 6th Administration "the sector is no longer just about food security and rural livelihoods to address social policy question, but a major contributor to economic growth".

It is envisaged that the potential of the sector will be unlocked through acceleration of land reform in both rural and urban areas".

President Ramaphosa further repeated the government stimulus and recovery package announced last year, which is aimed at prioritising funding for black commercial and upcoming farmers. Government will expand agriculture and agro-processing sectors by supporting key value chains and products,

developing new markets and reducing reliance on imports. The stimulus packages will direct investment in the key agricultural commodity industries with high growth potential.

The pronouncement by the President had set a tone for the next five years of our administration.

The Premier of Limpopo, Honourable Chupu Mathabatha, in the first SOPA of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration, has already given us a line of march. Our main priority focus would be on (1) Supporting the revitalisation of primary agriculture and agro-processing in the Province, targeting unutilized and undeveloped lands in particular. This includes our small scale irrigation schemes, whereby we must ensure their sustainable operations. (2) Support will be provided to ensure access by black farmers to infrastructure and markets in order to increase their entry into the food value chain. (3) Expansion of the agricultural skills base through training and skills development is central initiatives in order to improve viability and sustainability of farming operations, particularly for black farmers. (4) Facilitating transformation in the sector with a view to ensure meaningful participation of women, youth and people with disabilities.

In light of this we are working together with key stakeholders in the sector, namely commodity organisations in the fruit and vegetable industry, such as Citrus Growers, Subtropical Fruit, Potato South Africa and umbrella bodies such as Fruits SA, as well as the LandBank and organised agriculture formations, to develop a much more comprehensive plan to revive agricultural production in Limpopo. This plan aims to unlock the potential of unused and underdeveloped agricultural land in the Province. The target is land reform farms, irrigation schemes that are not in production and new undeveloped lands.

We will be working with the communities and local authorities through Municipalities and Traditional Leadership Authorities to find workable solutions to ensure that the unused land is put back into production. As the Honourable Premier has directed, we have started engagements with the management structures of land holding entities Bjatladi CPA and Mamphoku Makgoba Trust to find workable approaches towards the development of these reclaimed properties.

The Department will be hosting a round table discussion on the revitalisation of irrigation schemes during August 2019 in Sekhukhune District. This session must come up with concrete activities and quantifiable deliverables towards sustainable operations of the schemes that we are working on to revitalise. We must find lasting solutions for these schemes. I'm looking forward to the full participation, especially from our local authorities, being the Municipalities and Traditional Councils, as most of the schemes are in communal areas under our Traditional Councils.

Honourable Speaker, the 2019/20 financial year plans of the LDARD are meant to put into effect the key priorities as outlined in the SONA and SOPA, which adequately outlined the direction we must take towards the realisation of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP). Our 2019/20 plans also take forward the work we committed to do when we presented the 2018/19 Budget Vote Speech.

We have made significant strides in some areas and those areas where we did not achieve as planned, we have reviewed our approaches for implementation. As I have mentioned when I started, the agricultural sector went through difficult periods over the past few years. The challenges are associated, in the main, with the effects of climate change. The agricultural sector in Limpopo was not immune, disasters of various forms were experienced, such as drought, crop pests and diseases and animal diseases. We however believe that with interventions that were provided by Government, in partnership with various sector partners, the impact of these phenomena had been minimised to some extent.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to provide more details of the support as mentioned by the Honourable Premier in the SOPA. We will assist with infrastructure development for primary production and agro-processing to 577 farmers in the areas of fruits, vegetables, red and white meat production. Furthermore, 13 700 farmers across the Province will receive production inputs and mechanisation support. A budget of R270 million, under the Farmer Support and Development Programme, has been allocated for this purpose.

## **1. Fruit and Vegetable Cluster Development**

**Matsika banana production** (Thulamela): The irrigation system has been completed for the whole scheme, covering 90 hectares. The banana crop establishment was completed in 2018, with the last 20 hectares planted. Production is now in full swing and the fruit is sold at local and national markets. On average, 90 seasonal jobs are created annually.

The construction of a packing facility will be done this financial year. An amount of R10 million has been set aside for this development. The procurement process has been concluded in May 2019 and construction is underway. The expected completion period is June 2020. This facility will also service Tshikonelo farmers who are also producing bananas. The packing facility will reduce post-harvest losses and increase opportunities for more market access by these farmers.

The Tshikonelo banana crop establishment on 87 hectares commenced in 2018/19, following the completion of irrigation infrastructure. Crop establishment is scheduled to be completed in 2019/20. The Department is supporting the farmers with required production inputs in order to see

this development through to completion.

**The Nwanedi agri-hub development** (in Musina), has progressed well. This development is a partnership between our Department and the Jobs Fund of the National Treasury, implemented by Timbali Technology Incubator. The irrigation infrastructure has been completed for 107 farmers, covering 214 hectares. The pack house, officially opened in October 2018, is complete and fully operational. The Nwanedi development has brought value in many ways in terms of increased production, farmers' access to formal markets, local and international markets, as well as job creation. The development has enabled the creation 72 permanent and 356 short term jobs. On average 1 000 seasonal jobs are created during planting and harvesting seasons. This is another testimony of the value of partnerships in development.

In 2019/20 the phase D irrigation development, covering 86 hectares for 43 farmers, will be completed. Upon completion a total of 300 hectares would have been developed with irrigation infrastructure benefitting 150 farmers, who are also being commercialised to participate in the value chain. Measures are being put in place at primary production sites (farms) that will take them to a level of GlobalGAP market certification compliance. A budget of R11 million has been allocated for this development.

As part of agro-processing support to ensure that farm losses are minimized, the Department has assisted Tshakuma Agricultural Cooperative to upgrade their mango processing facility and increase production capacity from 60 tons to 300 tons per annum. The facility is now operating and it has also expanded market for mango producers in locality.

In the **GRASP cluster development** (Ba-Phalaborwa) notable progress was made to assist fruit and vegetables farmers in the areas of Gravelotte, Selwane and Priska with irrigation infrastructure development in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality. A 17 km irrigation canal in Priska was rehabilitated. The farmers are now able to get a proper flow of water. Shade-nets were constructed on 5 farms to protect the crops against harsh weather conditions.

In this financial year 28 projects on primary production infrastructure on new farms would be implemented. These projects include: irrigation infrastructure development on 10 new farms; shade-nets, on-site mini packing sheds, water reservoirs and ablution facilities on six farms; water source development, testing and equipping of ten boreholes for vegetables production, nursery establishment and cold storage and ablution facilities for integrated aquaculture production systems. An amount of R20 million has been allocated for these projects.

The refurbishment of the Masalal pack house is linked to the GRASP cluster development as part of the Mopani agricultural development zone

for fruit and vegetables. The aim of refurbishing this pack house is to have a packing facility within a closer range for fruit farmers in the area, therefore minimising transport costs. The refurbishment work included renovations of the buildings, installation of new packing lines, installation of a weigh bridge, refrigerated rooms and upgrading of ablution facilities. The pack house is GlobalGAP certified to enable the packaging of fruit for the export market. It was commissioned in June this year, with 6 ½ tons of citrus packaged, which was part of a consignment for export to China. A total of 124 new jobs were created at the start of the operation.

This financial year we will also complete a **tomato paste processing facility for Norjax** (Greater Tzaneen) by October 2019. The Department responded to the plight of and request from the tomato growers for the refurbishment of this tomato paste processing facility. The facility was no longer producing the right quality of the paste and as a result they had lost the market for the end products. The project started in 2017/18 and we are glad to announce that after lengthy processes, it is ultimately being brought to completion.

Honourable Speaker, **Masupatsela farm** in Tzaneen happened to be part of my initiation when I assumed this portfolio, as one of the farms for which there were no plans to make them productive. This farm was purchased by the Mopani District Municipality for agricultural development and empowerment of smallholder farmers. I'm happy to report that the Department has resuscitated the discussions with the Municipality. A development model has already been proposed and is under consideration by the Municipality. The model has served at the Economic Technical Committee of the District Municipality and awaiting approval by the Council. The model proposes the settlement of youth farmers, who will be assisted to establish high value crops enterprise of avocados, macadamia and blue berries.

**Potato production support for smallholder farmers** (Molemole, Blouberg and Polokwane). This development initiative is about supporting smallholder potato farmers to commercialise. It is done in partnership with Potato South Africa, which is a commodity organisation and McCain, who is also provides a market for the potatoes. Since the start of this development to date irrigation infrastructure (boreholes, reticulation system and centre pivots were installed on 677 hectares across Molemole, Polokwane and Blouberg Municipalities.

Honourable Speaker, I am delighted to announce to this House that we have amongst us an entrepreneur who was supported through our CASP and Letsema funding within our potato belt. He is also a youth from Molemole Municipality. His company is Marron Trading and has been selected and recognised by McDonalds international as the best producer of good quality potatoes for McDonalds. It must be noted that he is the best farmer in both black and white owned farms that produce potatoes for international markets such as Switzerland, Australia, Denmark and others.

The quality and size of potatoes produced by Maroon Trading meets the required McDonalds international standards - Dr Elias Monthla of Maroon Trading –**Can you stand up!!**

Maroon Trading enterprise has increased jobs opportunities from 80 to 200 during production seasons.

In 2019/20 financial year farmers would be assisted with irrigation systems to support primary production. The support will include water source development and reticulation system which involves equipping of boreholes, installation of a water reservoir, pipelines, booster pump, fertigation unit, centre pivots; installation of power supply infrastructure, de-bushing and grubbing, as well as land preparation. A budget of R10,5 has been allocated for this support.

Honourable Speaker, **MARKET ACCESS**. The Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Perishable Products Export Certification Board (PPECB). The Board is a Public Entity under the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the provision of market standards certification support. In 2018 15 farm enterprises and pack house facilities were audited as food business operators on phytosanitary measures for SAGAP certification. This year 20 enterprises will be audited.

## **2. Red Meat Development Cluster**

This development is to support smallholder red meat farmers in the Waterberg red meat development zone with livestock infrastructure for commercialisation purpose. The support includes livestock infrastructure in the form of stock water system, handling facilities and fencing of camps. Farmers are also provided with breeding stock for the establishment of a nucleus herd. The development is in phases. The first phase started through the Department's partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), University of Limpopo and Anglo Platinum mine. The livestock massification programme was initiated, which involved production improvement through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and genetic resources.

The Anglo Platinum mine commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of commercialising livestock production for cattle owners within a 15 km radius of the mine. The project is made up of livestock farmers in the Mapela area of the Mogalakwena Municipality. A total of 272 cattle owners from 15 villages of the Mapela Tribal Authority were identified as participants in the programme. The identified producers are traditional cattle producers facing multiple challenges from lack of infrastructure, inadequate skills and market exploitations. The development has been extended to include other municipalities in Waterberg. Plans for 2019/20 include:



- 60 km border fencing for 10 farms, animal handling facilities for 3 and stock watering for 2 farms in Mogalakwena (Mapela area);
- Water source development and infrastructure development of 14 farms in the Immerpan area under Modimolle-Mookgophong. The development in Immerpan will continue into the 20/21 financial year. Water source development and reticulation to the camps in 4 farms will be completed in 2019/20.

A budget of R6 million will be used for the 2019/20 development.

Key to the success of the red meat programme is an effective animal health programme. Early January 2019 an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) occurred in Vhembe District. FMD is a severe, highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and others. Steps were immediately taken to manage the disease. The FMD Control Campaign was successful and some of the countries lifted their ban on the South African meat imports. Our prevention measures are continuing. Vaccinations and animal movement control is ongoing. During 2019/20 we will also construct 30 animal handling facilities (crush pens) in various areas across the Province. Construction of the fence separating the FMD area from the free area, commonly called yellow line, will commence as a multiyear project.

Revitalisation of small scale irrigation schemes

As the Premier pronounced in the SONA on 5 July 2019 we will be finalizing the revitalisation of the irrigation schemes in Tswelopele, Phetwane, Mogalatjane, Elandskraal and Zamerkom.

### **3. Operationalisation of the Lebowakgomo Abattoir**

As the Honourable Premier has announced, the Lebowakgomo abattoir will be operationalised this year. It can also be reported that the signing of the operating lease and other related documents will be during August. It is envisaged that the abattoir will start operations before the end of 2019. Over and above the jobs that would be created by the abattoir, the 14 broiler farms who will be supplying this abattoir have the potential to create at least 100 direct jobs. I'm working with my colleague, MEC Mokone, to ensure that this happens.

### **4. Capacity Building of Farmers**

The Department is partnering with Agri-Seta and key sector players for the capacity building of technical staff in both livestock and the crop sectors. Agri-Seta has committed to the initiative a total of R1,5 million for the 2019/20 financial year, in partnership with the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC),

## **5. Food Production Support for Household Food Security**

The achievement of food security, particularly at household level, is of paramount importance as enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Support is targeted at vulnerable households as part of the National Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Programme.

A total of 6 500 households would be assisted in 2019/20 on various food security initiatives as part of promoting food production at household level to improve access to basic food.

The Department is positively responding to calls of climate smart agriculture. I am glad to announce that today we have a young entrepreneur in our midst. He is from Limpopo and has invented a water efficient vegetable production equipment, which is the vegetable garden tower (VGT). This VGT technology is a water saving vegetable production technology which requires less water. This technology saves space and allows households to have access to organic leafy vegetables all year round, regardless of climate conditions. This technology is also being implemented in the identified Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD) and Schools across the Province which are involved in good gardens. This is done to ensure that learners are exposed to agricultural technology at a young age so as to view agriculture as a career of choice. Mr Bruce Diale of Brucol Global –**Can you stand up!!**

## **6. Natural Disaster Risk Management Interventions**

Limpopo Province continues to experience serious deterioration of agricultural resources due to persisting impacts of disasters such as drought and floods. In line with the approved Comprehensive Agricultural Disaster Risk Management Plan the Department continues to implement strategic actions identified that focus on proactive approaches to disaster risk reduction and mitigation. We are making a call to all farmers to say, let's adopt climate smart principles. Our farming practices should have built-in disaster risk measures.

## **7. Contribution to the Expanded Public Works Programme**

We will still implement fencing within the scope of EPWP in addressing the infrastructure gap on a farm level. Our efforts will assist communities who are affected by the lack of fencing for increasing agricultural production for different farming systems.

The Department has targeted to create 5 500 work opportunities within its budget allocation for different programmes and projects. This would be possible with the R7,□million incentive allocation for 2019/2020.

## **8. Youth in Agriculture Development Support**

Honourable Speaker, we have started in the past 3 years a programme on Youth in Agriculture Development Support.

In 2018/19 we have placed 110 agricultural graduates with commercial enterprises for a period of 2 years as part of the "WALALA WA SALA MOSWA" provincial drive to address youth unemployment. This placement is meant to expose them to the field experience so they can acquire practical knowledge and skills that will empower them. We want to thank all participating farmers who are hosting these young professionals and also to urge other established farmers to volunteer to host and mentor this young graduates. It is through this collaboration that unemployment of young people can be empowered and prepared to have a meaningful participation in the sector.

Annually the Department host the Young Farmer of the Year Awards Competition. The purpose of these awards is to showcase and give recognition to young farmers for their contribution in the sector as food producers, entrepreneurs and, most importantly, employers. Annually prizes to the value of R2,7 million are won, which young farmers use to plough back to their farming businesses. Through the awards, they get exposure, which brings other forms of support, such as financial and markets, from external sources in the private sector, which contributes to the growth of their agricultural enterprises.

### **Structured Agricultural Education and Training**

Seventy-three (73) students obtained their Diplomas in Animal and Plant Production from Limpopo Province's Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila Colleges of Agriculture in a joint graduation ceremony at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane on 12 September 2018.

The two Colleges, whose academic programmes were closed for a number of years, resumed their academic life in 2015. The reopening of the Colleges was to address the skills required by the agricultural sector in line with the Agriculture Skills Development Strategy.

### **Details of LDARD 2019/20 budget allocation**

In summary the overall budget for Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development is two billion seven hundred and seventy thousand rand (R2 000 000 000). The budget is made up of one billion six hundred and fifty-eight million (R1 658 000 000) equitable share allocation and conditional grants amounting to three hundred and forty-two million rand (R342 345 million). The overall budget has increased by 4.1% on conditional grant. The amount for conditional grants comprises two hundred and forty-seven million rand (R247 million) for Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), Letsema at seventy-five million two hundred and fifty-four thousand rand (R75, 254 million), Landcare grant is twelve

million and eight hundred and sixty-three million rand (R12, 863 million) and EPWP seven million six hundred and eighty-six million (R7 686 million).

It is therefore my honour and privilege to table before this House the 2019/20 budget vote for the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The budget for 2019/20 has been allocated as follows:

**Programme 1: Administration**, the programme has been allocated four hundred and two million three hundred thousand rand (R402.3 million) to cater for normal administrative costs and contractual obligations.

**Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management** has been allocated Ninety-two million two hundred thousand rand (R92, 2 million) to provide agricultural support services to farmers in order to ensure that there is sustainable management of agricultural resources. The services cover agricultural engineering services, natural resource management, land use management services, disaster risk management and spatial information services.

**Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development** has been allocated One billion one hundred and ninety million rand (R1.190 billion), which constitutes 60% of the budget of the Department, including CASP and Letsema conditional grants. The allocation is for farmer support programmes and projects, ranging from agricultural infrastructure and equipment for primary and secondary production activities.

**Programme 4: Veterinary Services** has been allocated sixty-three million seven hundred thousand rand (R63.7 million) is to render veterinary services, i.e. animal disease control, veterinary public health, certification of animals and animal products for export as well as providing a laboratory diagnostic service which detects disease-causing agents in submitted samples.

**Programme 5: Research and Technology Development** receives sixty-two million three hundred thousand rand (R62.3 million) to render agricultural research services and development of information systems with regard to agricultural and natural resource utilization technologies.

**Programme 6: Agricultural Economics Services** has been allocated twenty-nine million six hundred thousand rand (R29.6 million) to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to the sector in support of sustainable agricultural and agri-business development to increase economic growth.

**Programme 7: Structural Agricultural Training** receives an allocation of one hundred and fifty-one million four hundred thousand rand (R151.4 million) for the two Colleges of Agriculture in the Province to provide student academic programmes, College infrastructure revitalisation and learnership programmes.

**Programme 8: Rural Development** has been allocated nine million one hundred thousand rand (R9.1 million) to facilitate and coordinate the planning and implementation of integrated rural development programmes in line with the

Limpopo Integrated Rural Development Strategy (LIRDS).

The Chairperson, Honourable Masekoameng and Members of the Portfolio Committee, I wish to thank you in advance. Together we are going to shape the success of the Department.

Many thanks to the Head of the Department, Ms Ramatsimela Maisela and her team for the sterling job continuing at the Department. I would like to express my special appreciation to my predecessor, MEC Basikopo Makamu who did a wonderful job at the Department. My reception has been astounding and working together we shall continue to improve the work of the Department and deliver on our mandate. Our march towards a poverty free society continues. Our Department is central to achieving a poverty free society. We shall work very hard to attain food security for all our people. Let's grow South Africa together as we celebrate 25 years of freedom.

I thank you.

## **LDARD 2019/20 BUDGET ALLOCATION**

*Figure 1: 2019/20 Budget Allocation per Programme*

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