



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

MEDIA ADVISORY

TO ALL MEDIA

07 DECEMBER 2023

MEC MOKONE LEADS POTATO HARVEST DAY

MEC Thabo Mokone together with Potatoes South Africa will be hosting a Potato Harvest Day in Senwabarwana, Capricorn District under the theme; “Centralising Potato Commodity Developments – Sustainable Partnerships aimed at Developing Rural Economies”.

This session will be showcasing government development initiative between the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) and Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for potato farmers in the Capricorn District. The goal of the project is to bring together historically disadvantaged farmers from the Potato belt area, presently producing a combined total of 500 hectares for potato production.

The project has the potential to uplift the rural economy and fast-track commercialization of black-owned farming enterprises. The success of this initiative will play a key role in addressing issues of poverty and food insecurity and creating the necessary jobs/employment for the previously disadvantaged.

Since its inception in 2021/22 this partnership has yielded positive results, empowered over 35 enterprises, through government and private financial support towards production inputs, technical support, mentorship and transferred potato production skills through structured training and exposure to the potato industry role players.

This harvest aims to showcase the milestones under LDARD, DALRRD, and Potato SA partnership; to mobilise various industry role players, which can further add value to the farmer's enterprises and provide alternative streams of project related support. And further attract from stakeholders funding from public and private institutions, financial institutions, commodity organization, market access, access to production facilities, training and research opportunities and commercial potato farmers.

Mazeli is one of potato farmers in Blouberg who is in the potato belt and is receiving support from the department. The farmer is supported by the department with irrigation infrastructure that include center pivot, reservoir, pack shed and ablution facilities. The farmer also received production input support from both LDARD, DALRRD, and Potato SA as well as mentoring support.

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The heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people!

Members of the media are invited to the Harvest Day as follows:

Date: Friday, 08 December 2023

Venue: Andries Masoga's Farm Avon, Senwabarwana, Blouberg Local Municipality

Time: 9:30 – 15:00

Issued by LDARD Communication Services

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