

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

To All Editors and Reporters

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PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA SATISFIED WITH TURNAROUND STRATEGY AT ZEBEDIELA CITRUS FARM

Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has expressed profound satisfaction with the progress made in turning around Zebediela Citrus Farm in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, under Capricorn District Municipality.

Premier Ramathuba conducted an unannounced visit to the farm on Tuesday, 21 July 2026, approximately four (4) months after her initial visit. This followed the commencement of the turnaround strategy to revitalise the farm to its former glory as the leading producer of citrus in the South Africa.

The farm, led by the Bjatladi Community Property Association (BCPA) in partnership with Whiphold, began the resuscitation process by planting beans to enrich the soil with nitrogen ahead of planting new orange trees.

“During our first visit here, we anticipated that the project would at this stage have created at least 70 jobs for residents of Zebediela and surrounding areas. To our surprise, we found that the farm has employed over 700 people — dispelling the myth that South Africans do not want to work on farms. I will sleep peacefully knowing that our people are earning an income at this farm,” said Premier Dr Ramathuba.

The workforce at the farm, famously known as “Dinamoneng”, comprises former employees and new, young workers who are determined to revitalise and sustain the historic citrus farm.

“Today, as you have had the opportunity to meet your hardworking Premier, go back to the fields and put in more energy, just as she does, towards building Limpopo Province. Let us build Limpopo together. Let us appreciate what we are getting from this farm and continue with efforts to resuscitate it,” said Farm Manager, Mr Ronny McKenzie.

The Chairperson of the Bjatladi Community Property Association, Mr Lesley Makgaba, said the progress made in resuscitating the Zebediela Citrus Farm is notable among community members. “Our working relation with Whiphold remains intact, and we continue to work together to turn the farm around to what it used to be,” he said.

The Limpopo Provincial Government will continue to monitor the farm to ensure its successful restoration and sustainability of citrus farming, with the aim of creating jobs and driving economic growth in the province.

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