

ISSUE 11

TEKULIMA

NENTUTHUKO

CREECY

MEC JOINS MINISTER IN
SHEPMORE FOR
MANDELA DAY

KHULILE WINS NATIONAL FEA

DAFF

PRODUCER/FARMER
REGISTRATION
TRIAL SETS THE
TONE

DARDLEA CURBS
AFRICAN SWINE
FEVER



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

This advice can save your life!

What is rabies?

- Rabies is a disease that affects the brain, causing the death of people and animals.

What are the signs of the disease?

- Changes in behaviour (e.g. wild animals appear tame; domestic animals become aggressive)
- Salivation
- Incoordination
- Paralysis

How do people get rabies?

- People most commonly get rabies from being bitten by a dog that has the disease.

Which animals can get rabies?

- Pets, e.g. dogs and cats.
- Livestock and wildlife can also get rabies.

How do I protect my pet and myself?

- Have your dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies.
- Do not touch or pick up stray animals
- If you get bitten:
Wash the wound(s) well with lots of soap under running water.
- Immediately go to your nearest clinic.
- Contact your nearest State Vet, Private Vet or Animal Health Technician

Protect yourself, your family and your community against rabies!!!!



For further information contact your nearest Animal Health Technician or State/ Private Veterinarian, Contact Directorate Food Import and Export Standards. P O Box 40024, Arcadia, Pretoria 0007. Tel: 012 319 6004/6117. Email: info.sps@daff.gov.za



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs**
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 01 Editor's Note
- 02 HOD's Foreword
- 03 MEC's Foreword
- 04 MEC joins Minister Creecy in Sheepmore for Mandela Day
- 06 Khulile wins National FEA
- 07 Over R1.2b Budget for DARDLEA In 2019/20
- 08 DAFF producer/farmer registration trial sets the tone
- 11 Smallholder farmers benefit from Mkhuhlu Agri-hub
- 12 Acting HOD joins Fortune 40 Youth in Celebrating Youth Day At Zoeknog
- 13 DARDLEA curbs African Swine Fever
- 15 Operation Siyabangena takes on businesses in Ermelo
- 16 Bushbuckridge Women Work hard to improve their lives
- 16 Ehlanzeni District Career Expo Inspires Learners
- 17 Young Female Entrepreneur Changes Waste to wealth
- 18 Mpumalanga Welcomes Mozambique Delegation
- 19 Research





#FoodSecurityforAll

The first quarter of the current financial year came in during the time the country was wrapping up the fifth administration whilst ushering in the sixth administration which started in May after the people have casted their votes. The country has seen changes at national level with restructuring of departments, some merging and of course the cutting down on ministries with the notion to improved service delivery whilst saving on resources.

There has been developments which is about change and change is good. It is also about making a better life for everyone. The fourth industrial revolution is also here, technology is at our fingertips and history is moving faster than we can imagine. This can of course have a positive impact on people's lives provided it benefits all. People need to adapt very quickly.

The past 25 years have seen substantial progress in many aspects including that of ICT. As we enter into the 4th industrial revolution a lot of people would want to take charge and they are so interested in this, as we operate in a very dynamic and ever-changing environment.

Our publication for this quarter provides more content on the activities that have taken place including the launch of the double-ZIP i.e Zonda Insila and Zonda Indlala Programmes, the Operationalisation of Mkhuhlu Agri Hub, SAFDA Launch, research corner and many more. With this publication we are connecting with our stakeholders which are key in the existence of the Department. Something to ponder on is communication which is a process as old as Human Society.

It is a process in which all of us are engaged in from time to time as we awaken in the morning to the time we sleep at night, whether speaking, reading or writing, watching TV, hearing, listening to radio, interacting through email or live internet and many other platforms that have been recently created such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

It is for this reason that we are constantly communicating, as we have the responsibility to do so, and this newsletter is therefore one of the mediums which connects the Department with its stakeholders sharing and communicating the good stories. As you don't have to sign in or customize or register or even to remember passwords to read this newsletter, page it through, pause if you feel like and you may pass it on or keep it in a safe place for another reading.

Ms ZD Shabangu

This programme have started to address the multifaceted challenges of land unavailability, food insecurity, carbon emission and reduction of the effects of erratic winds.

The Department stepped up its commitment of a better, cleaner and healthier environment for all in the Province and beyond. Focus is elevated, amongst others, on educating, awareness, demonstration and job creation in the environmental sector. Therefore the Department innovatively, initiated and implemented a focused approach programme called Zonda Insila Programme (ZIP).

The programme is designed to encourage the communities to be actively involved in cleaning their surroundings and collect waste for recycling. Since its inception, the programme has already seen a number of youth being employed as ambassadors of clean environment in their local areas. The programme has already started providing our communities with various recycling opportunities that has seen the intervention turned into environmentally based businesses.

Another initiative that the Department prides itself with is the Mkhuhlu Agri Hub which is currently in operation. Farmers are now having a market for their produce, nothing is going on waste. The Agri-hub is equipped to provide the local farmers with opportunities of value adding that includes sorting, packaging, cold storage, juicing, and drying.

Other initiatives that are benefitting the farming community include the Dairy Processing Plant which is still under construction, Phezukomkhono Mlimi Programme, Mpumalanga Young Farmer Incubation Programme (Fortune 40), Young Tractor Mechanics, Research and Training, Veterinary Services which looks at the wellbeing of animals.

**Let us join hands as we make
Mpumalanga green and be
food secured**



Mr LS Monareng

The National Development Plan (Vision 2030) remains the yardstick alongside which the Department continues to measure its performance and service delivery in addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality in the Province. The Department carry on to implement programmes geared towards sustainable job creation, food security and environmental development programmes.

A number of interventions have been made to ensure food security for households that live below the poverty line. With that, the Department has innovatively introduced and piloted the new programme focusing specifically on fruit and nut tree production at household level called Zonda Indlala Programme (ZIP). This programme is aimed at reaching all levels of production that includes backyard household level, emerging and commercial farmers.

This initiative will contribute towards the effort of ensuring that no land is wasted or underutilised. Through the Zonda Indlala Programme, farmers were and or been enabled to participate at all levels of production and value adding process such as fruit drying, atchar, juice and jam processing.



Hon. VR Shongwe

The sixth administration has just begun and it will run for the next five years governing the future of this country. As government of the day, we are delighted for the trust and confidence bestowed upon us by the people of this country to take yet another five years in office to transform people's lives for the better.

This we can only do by listening to their voices that we have just heard before voting in this administration. We are indeed and will continue to be their government of choice. Agriculture in the province plays a pivotal role in food security and perceived as a major economic driver in the province.

Therefore, it is incumbent for this Department to continue support our smallscale farmers to become commercially viable. With the increasing population, there is more pressure for the Department to develop strategies and means to intervene in addressing the effects of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The DARDLEA family choose not to be a spectator in this trying yet difficult time faced by our country where the economy is not growing, unemployment and poverty level remaining high. Our programmes are directly responding to the needs of the people that we serve.

It is therefore crucial to develop the agricultural sector to enhance our food security and for attracting investment, anchored by the President in his State of the Nation Address on 6 the February 2019.

DARDLEA believe in working together with other stakeholders that is the main reason that we continue to collaborate with commercial farmers to increase production and support emerging farmers.

The Department continues to cover and service all corners of the province to create awareness on programmes implemented and provide support to the farming communities.

This is done in line with the vision of the Department of creating vibrant, equitable and sustainable urban and rural communities with a united and prosperous agricultural sector and evidently guided by the Batho Principles.

Phezukomkhono Mlimi.



MEC JOINS **MINISTER** CREECY IN **SHEEPMORE** FOR **MANDELA DAY**



The leaders with the trees donated to the schools.



Some of the learners from disadvantaged homes who received school shoes.

Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Barbara Creecy has called the Sheepmoor community outside Ermelo in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality to commit to working towards ensuring smooth running of the local schools in the area. Accompanied by MEC Vusi Shongwe and the local Executive Mayor, Minister Creecy bemoaned the reported incidents of vandalism, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and bullying at schools, and called on parents to play their part in ensuring their children's good behavior.

Addressing members of the community who gathered at a local community hall for a Nelson Mandela Day commemoration on 21ST July 2019, the Minister said "Maintaining good behavior of our children does not start and end with educators at schools, it is the responsibility of parents and the community where these kids come from. Teaching morals should start at home, where these kids come from", said Creecy.

The Minister was told of the plight of the community and the situation at the schools during a Thuma Mina Campaign ahead of the May elections. At the time, she had gone to the area to fix potholed roads. Upon her return to Sheepmoor for her 67 minutes on the windy Sunday, she and MEC Shongwe donated school desks made from recycled material, school shoes to needy learners, garden tools and trees, and also planted seedlings in a backyard garden, including painting classrooms at Thwahlele Primary and BEE Maseko Secondary School. They also donated indigenous fruit trees to the schools.

"Maintaining good behavior of our children does not start and end with educators at schools, it is the responsibility of parents and the community where these kids come from. Teaching morals should start at home, where these kids come from"

The backyard garden will come in handy in augmenting the learners' feeding scheme. We thank the Minister for sticking to her promises to again come to this area, to contribute towards changing the lives and uplifting the standard at the local schools, one of which now boasts dignified toilets, replacing the old pit latrines. This is what Nelson Mandela stood for", concluded MEC Shongwe.

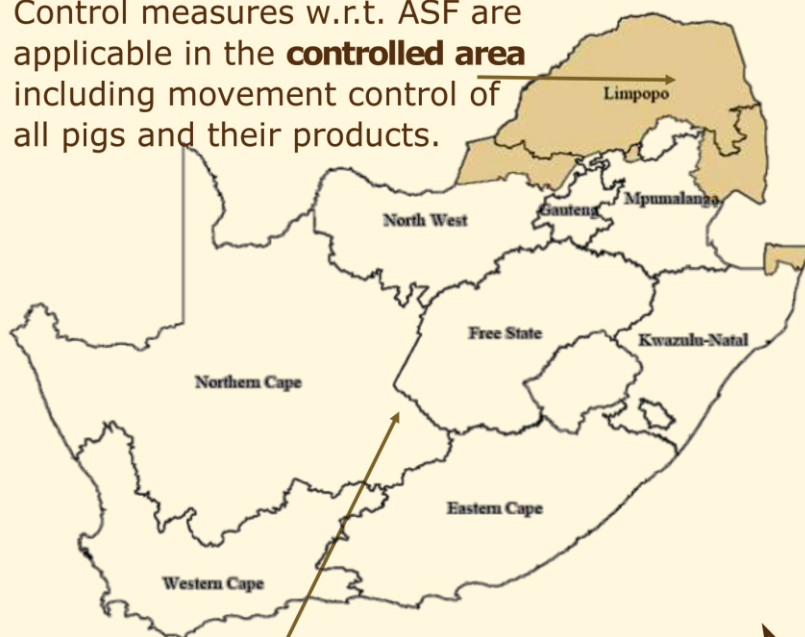


MEC Shongwe and Minister Creecy hard at work painting school walls.

African Swine Fever

The **African swine fever (ASF) virus** is transmitted between **warthogs** and eyeless tampons in the African swine fever controlled area, without disease in the warthog

Control measures w.r.t. ASF are applicable in the **controlled area** including movement control of all pigs and their products.

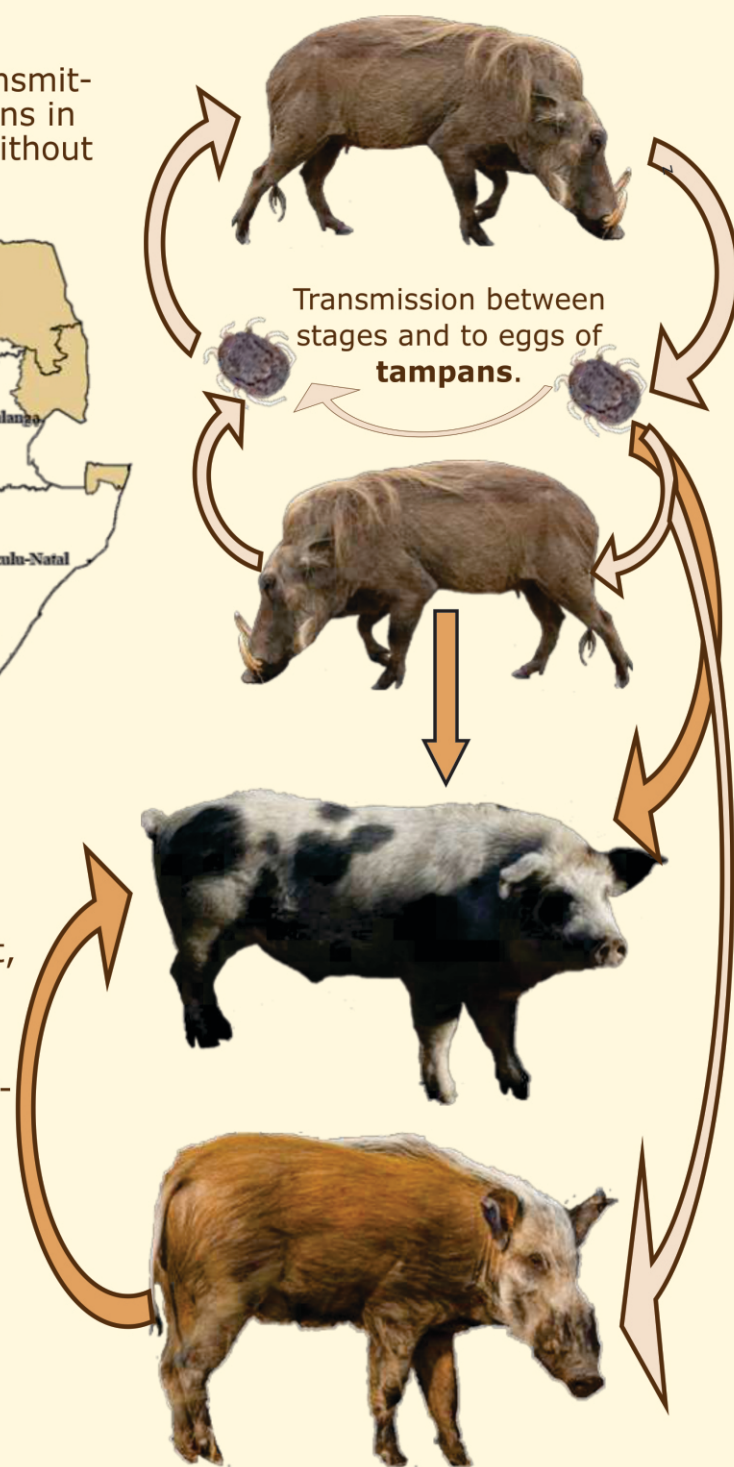


Movement control are also applied in the **rest of the country**, outside the controlled area to wild pigs and in North West, Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga also to wild pigs products.

Movement control means that a permit must be obtained from Veterinary Services or authorised person before movement.

Pigs (domestic pigs and wild boar) get infected through bites of the eyeless tampan, contact with infected bushpigs or warthogs, contact with other infected pigs, infectious fomites, or eating infected meat/meat products.

Pigs develop severe disease and all pigs in a herd may die in a short period



Bushpigs can also get infected, and don't get sick.

Contact the responsible state veterinarian for more information.

Mpumalanga Veterinary Services
Tel: 013 741 3218/5065/5078

Compiled by J. C. Dongo, 1 July 2019

Keep our pigs free of African swine fever.



A jovial Khulile Mahlalela celebrating after scooping a national award.

■ KHULILE WINS NATIONAL FEA

Mpumalanga-based piggery farmer Khulile Mahlalela scooped the Minister's Special Award for Young Farmers at this year's DAFF Female Entrepreneur Awards (FEA) held at the Grand Arenain in Cape Town, on 29 August 2019. The annual DAFF FEA Awards are aimed at celebrating the strides made by women in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. The Awards pay tribute to the efforts and contribution by women, young females and women with disabilities for the roles they play towards ensuring food security, poverty alleviation, job creation and economic growth in the sector.

Wrapping up Women's Month in style The 20th Awards were held in partnership with Total South Africa, under the Theme: "Celebrating two decades of women's victory in agriculture, forestry and fisheries". During her key note address, Minister Thoko Didiza said, "Today, we celebrate those who have worked very hard. Through their hard work and achievements, we encourage other women to also rise up to the challenge."



MEC VR Shongwe and Ms Mpho Sekoma congratulating Khulile after she scooped an award.

Other winners are as follows:

The Best Female Worker went to Katrina Nxangani from the Free State;
 Best Subsistence Producer went to Tholakele Sibiyi from KwaZulu-Natal;
 Top Entrepreneur: Smallholder went to Happiness Makgamatho from the Limpopo;
 Top Entrepreneur: Processing went to Daphne Neethling from the Western Cape;
 Top Entrepreneur: Commercial went to Mmathoko Mabula from the Limpopo; and
 Top Entrepreneur: Export Markets went to Berene Damons from the Western Cape.

Limpopo's Mmathoko Mabula was announced as the 2019 DAFF FEA Overall winner based on the highest scoring points.

OVER R1.2b BUDGET FOR DARDLEA



MEC for DARDLEA Mr Vusi Shongwe delivered the Departmental 2019/20 Policy and Budget Vote in the Legislature on the 11th July 2019, announcing plans for the year ahead. The MEC announced that the Government Nutrition Programme (GNP) has since been brought back to the DARDLEA, an idea that will assist the Department in streamlining its activities which include the production inputs, extension services, ploughing and supply to markets.

“In order to accelerate access to markets by farmers, through the GNP we will be supplying produce to the Department of Education, Health, Safety Security and Liaison and Correctional Services”, said MEC Shongwe.

A decision has also been taken and directed to the Department to compile a register of all leased farms in collaboration with Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) indicating the total number of operational and non-operational farms in the Province.

The Department will also continue providing direct support to farmers through the provision of mechanisation services and production inputs by planting of 12 060 ha, support 726 food gardens as well as 80 Primary Cooperatives linked to markets including the GNP.

“We are already piloting a new sub-programme called Zonda Indlala Programme, aimed at encouraging each household to plant fruit and nuts trees”, said MEC Shongwe. He said the Department will also continue to roll out the Fortune 40 Young Farmer Incubation Programme to ensure that Fortune 40 farms are fully operational and sustainable.

Other key programmes include the continued efforts to combat illegal meat and backyard slaughtering, through the implementation of the Independent Meat Inspection Scheme. The MEC also outlined a programme called Zonda Insila Programme (ZIP), which aims at enhancing knowledge of good waste management principles in communities and thereby reducing the impact of Climate Change.

Before the tabling of the Policy and Budget Speech, MEC Shongwe spent time at the entrance of the Riverside Government Complex, handing out fruits to passing government employees, as he encouraged them to eat healthy, and also to support Zonda Indlala and Zonda Insila Programmes respectively. MEC Shongwe tabled a budget of R 1,222,473,000 (One billion, two hundred and twenty two million, and four hundred and setwo hundred and twenty two million, and four hundred and seventy three thousand rand).



MEC VR Shongwe and DARDLEA officials handing over fruits to passing motorists at RGC entrance.



Bottom Right: Acting HOD Monareng and Rural Development and Land Reform Chief Director Ms Zanele Sihlangu after the tabling of the DARDLEA Budget

The budget is allocated as follows:

Programme 1: Administration: R 201 013 million

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management: R 77 339 million

Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development Services: R 538 250 million

Programme 4: Veterinary Services: R 144 640 million

Programme 5: Technology, Research, and Development: R 61 611 million

Programme 6: Agriculture Economics: R 18 049 million

Programme 7: Structured Agriculture Training: R 28 782 million

Programme 8: Rural Development: R 26 016 million

Programme 9: Environmental Affairs an amount of R 126 773 million

DAFF PRODUCER/FARMER REGISTRATION TRIAL SETS THE TONE

A two-day preliminary exercise to test the DAFF Producer/Farmer Registration process started and ended on a high note, with only a few screws to be tightened on the questionnaire before the formal registration kick-start in earnest nationwide. The trial took place in Mpumalanga and Limpopo at the end of July 2019 respectively. In Mpumalanga, the trial took place at randomly selected agriculture projects in Nkomazi, Luiseville, Bushbuckridge, Manzana and Umjindi.

The Producer/Farmer Registration is aimed at establishing an up-to-date database of all farmers across the country, to enable government institutions to measure and track the number of farms and farmers in a province, be it subsistence, smallholder, or commercial, to take informed decisions. It is envisaged that the country-wide registration will continue until the year 2021.

It is envisaged that the database will improve planning, decision and policy-making including service delivery by a provincial Departments of Agriculture and the entire sector. A plea has since been made to farmers to cooperate with uniformed officials and Extension Officers who will physically visit all farms for the purpose of the confidential registration.



DAFF officials with a farmer in Mbuzini

Veterinary Services

Bovine brucellosis

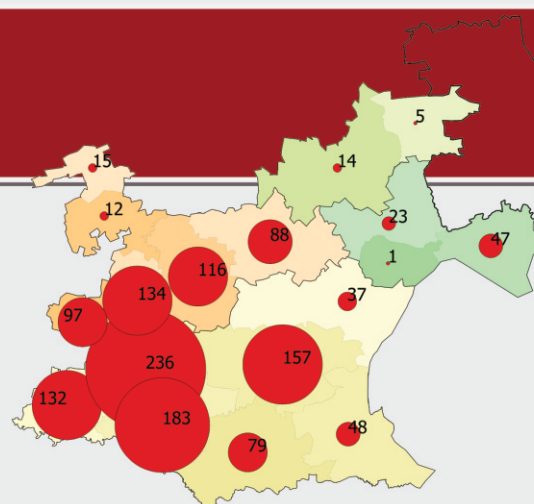
A threat to cattle and humans

What is bovine brucellosis?

Bovine brucellosis (BB) or contagious abortion is a contagious bacterial disease of cattle caused by *Brucella abortus*, that causes infection of reproductive organs and hydatid cysts. It can also infect other species, e.g. African buffalo, and humans. In humans it can become a severe debilitating disease and even cause death.

Legislation to protect animals and humans from brucellosis

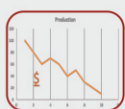
Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984) and Consumer Protection Act, 2008 (Act No. 68 of 2008).



Above: Number new outbreaks reported in cattle 1993 to 2016 in Mpumalanga



Tools are available to manage and eventually eradicate BB from cattle.



Lower production: fewer calves, less milk.

Prevent human cases:

Pasteurise milk, personal protection and hygiene.

Cull

infected animals & their offspring.

Detect early.

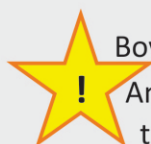
Regular herd tests

Reduce transmission

by management of herd & environment.

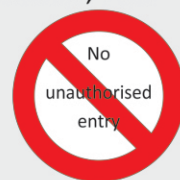
Vaccinate:

S19: heifers 4 to 8 months.
RB51: heifers and non-pregnant cows.



Bovine brucellosis is a controlled disease according to the Animal Disease Act 35 of 1984. Reporting of cases and suspicions to state veterinarian and vaccination is compulsory. Inform neighbour/s of confirmed infection.

BB enter herds through an infected animal or contaminated material brought in by people, predators, scavengers or flies or washed in by water.



Farm gate biosecurity

Only buy from negative tested herd. Quarantine and retest.



Infected animals can test negative.

No cure.

Detect early.

Submit placenta & foetus for laboratory testing

Report

to state veterinarian

Prevent transmission.

Isolate, disinfect, personal protection and hygiene.

Contact a veterinarian or animal health technician for more information.

Compiled by J C Dongo
2019/05/10
jcwessels@mpg.gov.za

Let's combat brucellosis together.



SMALLHOLDER FARMERS BENEFIT FROM MKHUHLU AGRI-HUB



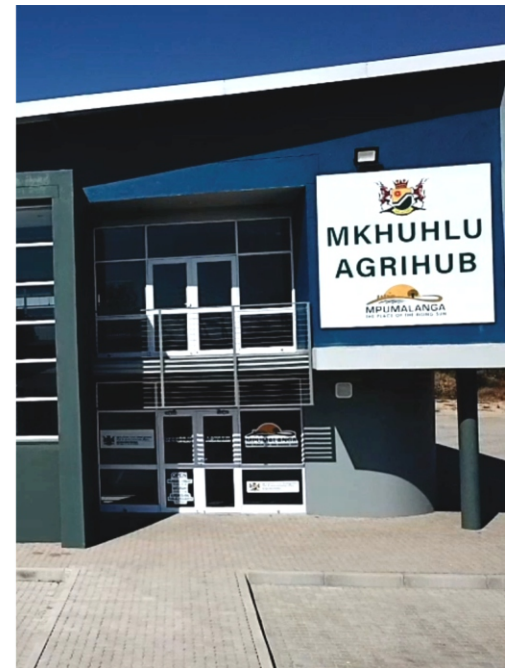
Some of the familiar faces at the Agrihub.

The Mkhuhlu Agri Hub has made a few strides in the past couple of months since it became operational at the beginning of May 2019.

The state-of-the-art Agri-Hub is one the major projects by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs. It opened its doors to the public, including those buying in bulk, have fresh fruit and vegetables, most of which are supplied by smallholder or emerging farmers. These are farmers who had no formal market, but they now supply their produce directly to the Agri-Hub, thereby eliminating potential middle-man and unnecessary high transport costs.

The Agri-Hub has brought much-needed agro-processing facilities at the doorsteps of farmers, who can now access markets at local, national and international levels, but also create the much-needed employment opportunities mostly for women and the youth. Local traders and surrounding households have started to benefit from it. "The Agri-Hub presents opportunities of value adding and storage to reduce the wastage our farmers have always suffered from, while creating economic spin-offs and the much-needed job opportunities. Moving forward, our farmers are encouraged to work hard and produce more to meet the demand for produce, ensure food security while improving their livelihoods", says DARDLEA MEC Mr Vusi Shongwe.

The Mkhuhlu Agri-Hub prides itself in that it has appointed Agronomists who work closely with local farmers, giving them support in producing for market specific demands. Currently, the Agri-Hub is enjoying walk-in customers, as well as Mozambican and Swaziland trucks driving in and out the gate with fresh produce. The Management at the Agri-Hub is working towards further opening new markets for farmers, while ensuring that current markets are sustained. The Agri-Hub is opened every day, including on holidays.



ACTING HOD JOINS FORTUNE 40 YOUTH IN CELEBRATING YOUTH DAY AT ZOEKNOG

Beneficiaries of the Mpumalanga Fortune 40 Young Farmers Incubation Programme in Zoeknog have expressed appreciation for the progress and improvement made since the programme was launched in 2015.

The Acting Head of DARDLEA Mr Lucky Monareng visited the Zoeknog and Marulaneng Agricultural Coops near Acornhoek on Thursday, 13 June 2019, where he also took part during the planting of tomatoes and cabbages, to be supplied to the Mkhuhlu AgriHub, Government Nutrition Programme and local communities.

The impressive progress at the project saw their counterparts from Sitimele and Ikusasa Labasha from Manzana also visiting, to benchmark and share best practices.

Addressing the young farmers, Monareng reminded them of the objectives of the F40 programme, and that they should take advantage of the opportunity and become skilled business people, who will soon contribute to the economy.

They assured him that their Incubator keeps them busy, attending classes every morning, before engaging in the day-to-day running of the farm. They also boasted about having installed the drip irrigation system by themselves. Their farm also boast an earth dam.

On the same day, HOD Monareng paid a curtesy visit to a nearby farmer, mama Moele, an inspiring example that patience and passion for agriculture pays. Mama Moele currently uses an old furrow irrigation system. She pleaded for drip irrigation to be installed.



Fortune 40 beneficiaries engaging HOD Mr LS Monareng
Top left: HOD Mr LS Monareng in Zoeknog.

DARDLEA curbs African Swine Fever

Amid the recent reports of an outbreak of African Swine Fever in few provinces in the country, Mpumalanga also encountered an attack in a certain farm in Victor Khanye Municipality. It was found that ASF is a severe disease which spreads fast and causes rapid death of pigs and may result into a drastic loss to farmers, even though cannot be transmitted to human only affects pigs. Even though there are control measures which have been applied at the affected farm in order to control and prevent the spreading of the disease.

The Veterinary Services saw it fit and responsible for the Department to raise awareness most specifically to piggery farmers at all levels in the affected district to help them understand and prevent the disease as there is no effective treatment for this disease.

The awareness campaigns were held under the significant saying "How to Stay A Step Ahead" which was essentially to alert the farmers of the clinical signs of ASF, how is it transmitted, how the diseases is diagnosed as well as the preventative and control measures. This virus is said to be carried by Warthogs/Wild pigs but only affect domestic pigs. Since it is difficult to control warthogs, farmers were requested to keep their pigs in secured camps in order to avoid contact with the latter.

Addressing the Farmers at Middelburg, Dr. Shonak said ASF may be suspected based on clinical signs such as abortion in pregnant sows, difficulty in breathing, vomiting, bleeding from the nose and rectum, diarrhea and redness of the skin of the ears, abdomen and legs. "He also indicated that there are other symptoms which may signal ASF such a loss of weight, loss of appetite, irregular fever and arthritis. He further highlighted that the disease cannot be transmitted to humans.

Farmers were also cautioned not to feed pigs swill to pigs and to also refrain from buying feed from unknown or untraceable supplier. They were also alarmed to adhere to strict bio security, by controlling access, wheel washing, vehicle spraying, disinfecting and cleaning of pans and personal hygiene of all workers.

African Swine Fever Hits Victor Khanye Farmers

Victor Khanye farmers suffered the second African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak within a period of four months. This was confirmed earlier this month upon experiencing an unusually high mortality in small scale pig farmers around Botleng village in Delmas. This settlement falls in the South African Swine Fever Free area.

African Swine Fever is a severely lethal disease in pigs which spreads rapidly and results in high mortalities in a very short space of time. Outlining it, the Acting Chief Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Lucas Cele from the Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs said "ASF is a different disease that you can not vaccinate, the only way to control it, is that the affected area or those pigs that are infected or at high risk be culled. Culled pigs and mortalities must be buried appropriately so that the disease is not spread to healthy pigs".

The Directorate of Veterinary Services from the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs culled approximately 526 infected and high risk pigs in Botleng communal kraals. This activity was executed comprehensively and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders that include the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA), the Victor Khanye Local Municipality (Environmental Services), South African Pork Producers Organization (SAPPO), Community Work Programme (CWP) and the 38 affected piggery farmers.

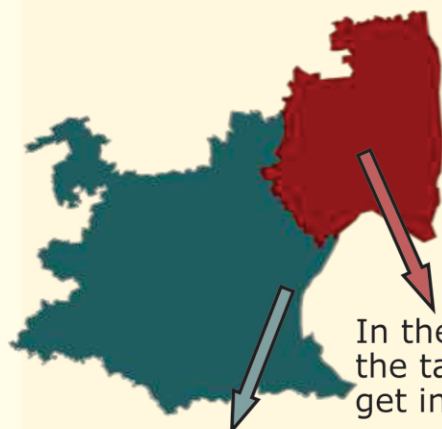
Each stakeholder had a role to play in this activity, NSPCA had to ensure that the animals are culled humanely, the municipality had to ensure that the animals are buried appropriately and they don't cause any environmental hazards and contamination.

Mr. Stanely Khumalo a piggery farmer who witnessed his 86 pigs being culled said, "With the information provided by the Department during the awareness campaigns few months ago, we were able to quickly identify the disease. We are fully aware that the only control measure in place is to remove the pigs to prevent the spreading of the disease. It has affected us financially as we were relying on them for a living but we understand that this slaughtering procedure is the best way to clear the area of the disease."

The Department urges all pig farmers to practice strict biosecurity in the farms and to be on a high alert of any sick pigs and immediately report to their local Veterinary officials so that precautionary measures may be applied to reduce the spread.



African Swine Fever Management in Mpumalanga



African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs caused by the African swine fever virus. Domestic pigs and wild boar develop a haemorrhagic fever, and many get sick and up to 100% die. It has a tick vector, the tampan (*Ornithodoros moubata*).

In the **ASF Controlled Area**, ASF virus cycles between warthogs and the tampan, without the warthogs getting sick. Bushpigs can also get infected, and also do not get sick.

In the **rest of Mpumalanga, outside the ASF Controlled Area**, wild and domestic pigs are free from ASF. Introduction of ASF have serious socio-economic consequences.

In the **ASF Controlled Area**:

- Permission from Veterinary Services is required for:
 - Movement of:
 - Live pigs (domestic and wild pigs—warthogs, bush- pigs and wild boar)
 - Wild and domestic pig carcasses and products
 - Exclusion to packaged domestic pig meat from ap-proved abattoirs and butcheries
 - hunting, shooting, catching or driving of warthogs and bushpigs.
 - Soft ticks may not be moved, e.g. on live pigs or skins
 - Record keeping of pigs and controlled veterinary acts.
 - Piggeries:
 - must be approved by Veterinary Services.
 - No swill may be fed to pigs.
 - Pens must be pig-proof.
 - Biosecurity and disease surveillance must be practised.
 - Report any cases or suspicion of ASF.



In the rest of Mpumalanga, **outside the ASF Controlled Area**:

- Permission from Veterinary Services is required for movement of
 - live wild pigs (warthog, bushpig and wild boar)
 - Wild pig products
- Swill must be cooked for 60 minutes before feeding it to pigs.
- Report any cases or suspicion of ASF.



Emergency: When ASF virus spreads outside the ASF controlled area, emergency measures will be followed to contain and eradicate ASF. This includes quarantine, isolation, culling, disinfection and surveillance.

Contact the responsible state veterinarian for more information. Tel: 013 741 3218/5065/5078
Compiled by J. C. Dongo, 30 July 2019

Keep our pigs healthy and ASF free!



EMIs during their door-to-door inspection of a few companies in Ermelo

Operation Siyabangena

takes on businesses in Ermelo

The DARDLEA's Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) and other officials embarked on "Operation Siyabangena" campaign on the 19th of June 2019 at Gert Sibande District, with an aim to strengthen the law of protecting the environment.

The EMIs, or Green Scorpions as they are affectionately known, made special visits to inspect a few identified industrial hotspots like PC's Sand & Stone, Africa Bricks & Hardware, Better Best Lodge, PM Sand, Icon Metals & Oils, and a Furniture Warehouse. The focus of Operation Siyabangena is to promote proactive compliance and ensure enforcement of the environmental legislation, enshrined under Section 24 of the Constitution.

Environmental Services Acting Chief Director Ms Pamella Ntuli and her team inspected the facilities, assessed and advised the owners of their establishments, handed out instructive and explanatory pamphlets, took photographs of evidence causing pollution and other damage to the environment.



PC's Sand & Stone's Managing Director Mr Paul acknowledged the initiative from the Department, and further requested more assistance with the necessary documents so that they can fully comply with all the environmental legislations. On the day, 'Operation Siyabangena' aimed to achieve its objective by determining the compliance status quo of the selected industrial areas, extend the reach of the EMIs, promote compliance with environmental legislative requirements, improve the contribution of current EMI efforts and increase EMI visibility.

Ms Ntuli says environmental laws and regulations help protect our environment, including the health and well-being of all South Africans. She says illegal conduct that harms the environment should be treated in the same custom as any other crime.

BUSHBUCKRIDGE WOMEN WORK HARD TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

DARDLEA acting Head of Department Mr Lucky Monareng adopted Hi Tirha Vukheta Cooperative projects during his visit to Bushbuckridge when he met with the farmers.

Ms Jeaneth Ngobeni is one of the farmers who were given a platform to raise farmers' concerns; she was full of praise and thanks to the Department for the support given to her. The Acting Head of Department opted to adopt the project and make it one of his special project, he therefore requested the District to make sure that the project is assisted in all forms required and possible to move it to the next level.

Hi Tirha Hi Vukheta Cooperative, is a project of six members specializing in Macademia trees. Currently the project has planted 200 matured trees on a 4 hectares of land. The project had decided to expand by 20 hectares after their request was approved by the local Chief. The 20 hectare land is on the other side of the R40 Road at Greenvally.

The District has headed the call from Mr Monareng and assisted the cooperative with an allocation of a tractor that needed minor repairs which was successfully done by the project and the tractor is now mobile. The local Extension Officer assisted the project on their search of ploughing implements. Currently the project is selling its produce to Kiepersol, Green Farm Macademia Factory.

The District is proud of such initiative from a group of women who stops at nothing to make their dreams work and make sure they do not let their families go to sleep on an empty stomach because of the economic condition of where they come from. The project has a bankable business plan which is done by the District Economics officials.

EHLANZENI DISTRICT CAREER EXPO INSPIRES LEARNERS

Hundreds of Grade 11 & 12 learners in from various schools in Ehlanzeni District were transported to Mbombela Stadium for a week-long 2019 Ehlanzeni District Career Exhibition. The activities begun on the 12th to 17 May 2019.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Inter-Departmental and stakeholders Career Guidance Forum in partnership with Career Exhibitions and Information Association (CEIA) invited learners in the District to the Career Exhibitions, aimed to give learners a platform to seek information and interact about their career choices and bursaries offered by various Universities, Colleges, Departments and companies.

The Mbombela Stadium was painted in rainbow colours, with learners accompanied by their educators moved from one exhibition stall to another seeking for information that will change their lives.

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs was not left behind; its officials participated in the career exhibitions. What was very key from their messages to young learners, was to encourage them to consider selecting the scarce skills careers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries when choosing their career paths through various institutions.

Learners were advised to choose careers in the following fields: Veterinary Science, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Technical Services, Agricultural Biotechnology, Bio-resource Engineering, Soil Science, Food Science and Technology, Animal Science, Aquaculture, Fisheries Science, Forestry and Forest Science, and Nature Conservation.

Many learners and teachers were inspired to be part of the Career Exhibitions; they all cited that they learned a lot from the various exhibitors, and promised to choose agricultural careers in future.

YOUNG FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR CHANGES WASTE TO WEALTH

Bophelo Recycling will now be able to grow and sustain their business with the new equipment they received on the 31st of May 2019. Bophelo Recycling received monetary injection from Safripol (Top polymer producer and marketer in South Africa) that was equally matched by a R250 000 donation from Petco (the South African Polyethylene Terephthalate Recycling Company) during the "Bophelo Recycling Equipment Launch".

Part of the support material and equipment which was donated included a brand new baler to help compress bottles to transportable bundles, which would make it easier to store. Ms Johanna Leshabane, founder of Bophelo Recycling, also received a trailer, one ton of waste bags, a carport, storage container and fencing. Furthermore the DARDLEA negotiated 6 trolleys from Petco to enable them to collect more waste.

Johanna collects recyclable material from households, schools, companies, illegal dumping sites and out skirts of Ermelo. After attending a DARDLEA-arranged Environmental Summit in Ermelo, she confidently networked and was immediately assisted with 6 employees who are part of the EPWP programme of the Department.

Environmental Affairs Acting Chief Director Ms Pamela Ntuli was overjoyed by the partnership between government and the private sector, which aims at job creation, alleviating poverty and promoting a cleaner environment. She touched on the 'Zondla Insila Programme' which also aims to contribute to the national goal of a clean and healthy environment.

Johanna's business is growing through partnerships with DARDLEA, PETCO, SAFRIPOL, SALGA and Msukaligwa Municipality. She aims to expand Bophelo Recycling into a waste buy back centre for the community and surrounding areas.



MEC VR Shongwe led his top management during a visit to Bophelo Recycling.



A group picture with the Mozambican delegation

MPUMALANGA WELCOMES MOZAMBIKAN DELEGATION

Bohlabela District: Matibidi and Mkhuhlu welcomed a powerful delegation of prominent Government Officials, farmers and members of Media houses from Mozambique who were in South Africa, Mpumalanga for a tour on the Water Efficient Maize for Africa projects in Matibidi and Mkhuhlu under Bohlabela District.

With climate change intensifying and the emerging of fall armyworm in African Countries farmers has experience difficulties increase their yield production and help their countries in their quest to defeat hugger. There is no doubt that climate change problem is real for farmers in Africa and farmers need tools to help them to adapt and increase their resilience.

There are several countries like Kenya, Mozambique, Tazania, Uganda and South Africa where trials of this seed is conducted, hence the Mozambican delegates visited Mpumalanga to witness how South Africa is doing in this regards. It was against this background that Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in Mpumalanga introduced this new seed called WEMA. The WEMA is an initiative that aims to develop drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize, using conventional breeding, market –assisted breeding, and genetic engineering. It claims that this will produce more reliable harvest under moderate drought condition and protect the maize from insect pests common to maize, such as maize stemborers.

The visit was for the Mozambican delegates to get first hand information on the experience of the farmers who are planting the WEMA seed. Mr Sam Maibela one of the farmers whom trials are being conducted at his plot was excited to share with the delegates the improvement from the ordinary seed to WEMA production. "I want to thank the Department and ARC for introducing this seed because I have seen a dramatic increase from what I use to harvest last time compare to what I am getting now" said a visible delighted farmer Mr Maibela.

The visit was closed with the words of appreciations from members of Mohlala Tribal Authority. Mr Methews Mabilu thanked all members of the Mozambican delegations, all members of DARDLEA, and farmers who took their time to visit Matibidi and encouraged all members to take the good practices home and share with their respective communities with the aim of improving their farming methods.

In spite of many challenges that emerging farmers experience on their farms daily, they are adamant that there is light at the end of the tunnel, following great support and interventions on new farming practices and mechanization inputs that they received from the Department and other stakeholders, aimed to fight hunger and poverty and ensure food security at household level.

The ten-member Thuthukani Communal Property Association (CPA) is actively producing maize, groundnuts, okra, cowpeas and sweet potatoes in a 10 ha land. This is one of the many farms that the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs is assisting to improve their agricultural production in all commodities. It recently hosted a gathering of farmers and stakeholders for a LandCare Awareness Campaign and Maize Production Farmers Day in Barberton.

The event was aimed at creating awareness and a platform to encourage farmers to share ideas and adopt new farming practices.

The Thuthukani CPA is a beneficiary from a partnership between the Department and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Together, they conducted trials on the farm to check the performance of the two cultivars. They planted the DKC 78/45 BR (white maize cultivar) from the department, which was compared with the WE 6208B (2kg) supplied by an ARC.

To address some of the challenges that farmers are experiencing in their fields, the department and ARC introduced farmers to Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA). WEMA products are low-cost drought-tolerant conventional and transgenic hybrids that give at least 25 percent yield advantage under moderate drought conditions.

As part of the activities of the day a transect walk was arranged to the field, where presenters shared a platform explaining various topics such as soil sampling, fertilizer application, weeding and soil preparation. A Lowveld Research Unit representative Mr M. Vilane demonstrated to the gathering how the two cultivars have performed so far, following the trials. He explained why it is important to select the best maize cultivar for great maize yield and also why it is always crucial to plant the refuge seed to protect Bt Maize.

Farmers were encouraged to plant Bt protect maize to prevent stem damage, in order to improve their maize production. Despite all challenges farmers are optimistic that their maize harvest will yield great results this year.

WHAT EVERY PIG OWNER SHOULD DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

African Swine fever is a disease of pigs characterized by high death rate, reddening of the skin, high temperature, listlessness, poor appetite, abortion and difficult breathing

Mpumalanga has been affected by the disease and for pig owners to protect their pigs the following should be practiced:

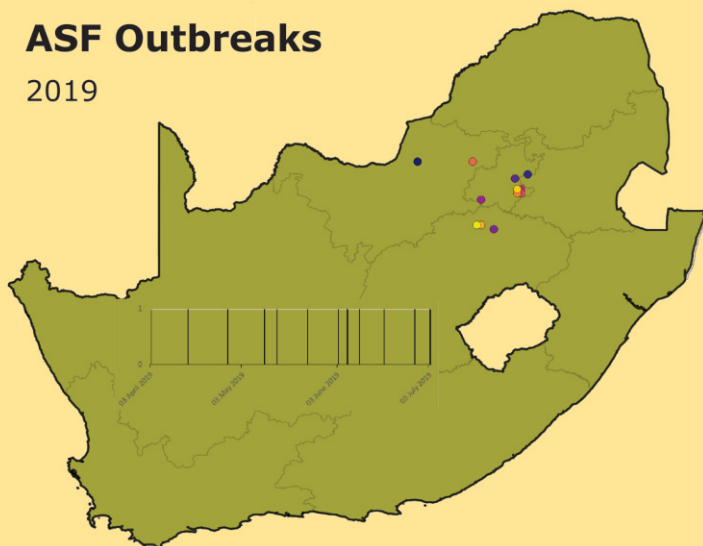
- Only buy or accept pigs from confirmed healthy herds. auctions are a mixture of multiple pigs of unknown origin and therefore a high risk
- Avoid visiting and buying pigs from auctions
- Confine pigs so that they cannot come into contact with other pigs and possible infected material (kitchen waste and carcasses)
- Avoid feeding swill (left overs or kitchen waste); if this is not possible, ensure that the food is cooked thoroughly to inactivate the virus (the virus can remain infectious in meat for months)
- Avoid allowing people/vehicles/equipment onto your farm as they may have been in contact with other pigs or infectious material.
- Disinfect your shoes, boots and use unused overalls when entering your piggery /pigsty
- Wash your hands before and after handling pigs and visiting your pigsty or piggery
- Report any sick pigs to your nearest vet or animal health technician immediately. Do not move them

African Swine Fever

Emergency Management 2019 Outbreak

ASF Outbreaks

2019



How did Mpumalanga Veterinary Services respond?

When the report was received, the infected farm was quarantined immediately. With the co-operation of the farmer and SAPPO, all pigs were culled humanely, buried and the site disinfected. It will remain free of pigs for 60 days before sentinel pigs are introduced.

Zones were established for management of the outbreak. Control measures over and above those applied when the disease is restricted to the ASF Controlled Area were implemented as follows:

Protection zone:

- This zone is roughly 3 km buffer around the infected farm.
- All domestic and captive wild pigs are quarantined.
- Regular disease surveillance to detect potential outbreaks early.

Surveillance zone:

- This zone is roughly 10 km buffer around the infected farm.
- Regular disease surveillance to detect potential outbreaks early.

Until when? If more outbreaks occur in or on the border of Mpumalanga, extra Zones may be added. These management actions will be implemented until 60 days after the last clinical case in the country outside the ASF Controlled Area.

Contact the responsible state veterinarian for more information. Tel: 013 741 3218/5065/5078

Compiled by J. C. Dongo, 30 July, 2019

Twelve outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) occurred from April to 3 July 2019 in domestic pigs outside the ASF Controlled Area, in North West, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and the Free State. When ASF breaks out in domestic pigs, the aim is to contain and eradicate the disease as soon as possible to minimise the socio-economic impact.

Why did it happen? ASF was introduced into the pig population by contact with warthog causing the first outbreak in Northwest. Illegal movement of live pigs from the ASF Controlled Area is suspected to have introduced the infection into the other areas, and that it was also spread by movement of infected pigs.

ASF Controlled Area:

All the control measures still apply. See relevant documents.

Whole province

- Prohibition of live pig auctions.
- Movement of domestic, and wild pigs and wild pig products may only occur with permission of the state veterinarian only, and requires health certification by an animal health technician or veterinarian.
- If swill is fed to pigs, it must be boiled for 60 minutes.



WHERE WE CAN BE FOUND

HEAD OFFICE

Samora Machel Building, Floor 1&2
No 7 Government Boulevard
Riverside Park
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 11219
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)13 766 6359/6069/6020
Fax: +27 (0)13 766 8429
Email: infodardlea@mpg.gov.za

EHLANZENI SOUTH DISTRICT OFFICE

Building 4, Aqua Street
Riverside Park
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

P.O. Box 266
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa

Tel : + 27 (0) 13 759 4039
Fax: + 27(0)13 759 4165
Email: pnzmpangane@mpg.gov.za

EHLANZENI NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE

101 Main Road
Thulamahashe, 1365
Republic of South Africa

Private Bag x 1321
Thulamahashe 1365
Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)13 773 1192
Email: hndlovu@mpg.gov.za

NKANGALA DISTRICT OFFICE

Building 16, Government Complex
Kwamhlanga1022
Republic of South Africa
Private Bag x 4017
Kwamhlanga 1022

Tel: +27 (0)13 947 2551
Fax: +27 (0)13 947 2809

GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT OFFICE

44 Church Street
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa
Private Bag x 9071
Ermelo 2350
Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)17 819 2076

