



INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND REFORM AND AGRICULTURE

CLOSE - OUT REPORT

JULY 2018 TO MAY 2024



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PREAMBLE



**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND
REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MS THOKO DIDIZA**

Whereas His Excellency The President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa acknowledges that the Land Reform programme in South Africa is a moral, social, and economic imperative,

Committing that the government will continue to accelerate the pace of land reform within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of South, respective legislation, and according to the rule of law;

Cognisant that by bringing more land into productive use, by giving more South Africans assets and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, the country is creating conditions for greater, more inclusive, and more meaningful growth,

Recognising that great strides have been achieved in the implementation of the land reform programme, however, the promise of equitable access to land and redress of historic land injustices have not yet been fully realised by the millions of people who are unemployed and live in conditions of poverty;

Having Decided on the importance of a coordinated government effort to implement the land reform programme and upscale the provisions of post-settlement support to beneficiaries, His Excellency The President appointed the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform and Agriculture on 07 July 2018. In terms of composition, the IMC currently is comprised of the following departments:

- a] Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Chairperson of the IMC;
- b] Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development;
- c] Minister for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency;
- d] Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs;
- e] Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition;
- f] Minister of Human Settlements;
- g] Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development;
- h] Minister of Public Enterprises;
- i] Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure;
- j] Minister of Water and Sanitation; and
- k] Minister of Forestry; Fisheries and Environment.

To support the work of the IMC President Ramaphosa appointed the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture in September 2018 to provide a unified policy perspective on land reform in respect of restitution, redistribution and tenure reform, as well as agriculture.

The Panel was chaired by the Late Dr Vuyo Mahlati, Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, Ms Bulelwa Mabasa, Mr Wandile Sihlobo, the Late Professor Mohammed Karaan, Professor Ruth Hall, Dr Thandi Ngcobo, Mr Dan Kriek, Ms Thato Moagi and Mr Nick Serfontein.

I am honoured to present this report that accounts for the progress achieved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform and Agriculture to expedite land reform and post-settlement support through a range of policy and legislative measures towards achieving the country's development and transformation objectives.

FOREWORD



**HIS EXCELLENCY DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA,
MR PAUL MASHATILE**

The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform and Agriculture was established by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa to provide political and strategic leadership on the implementation of land reform, the provision of post-settlement support, and facilitation of urban and rural development and human settlement to build a just and prosperous society. Effectively, the President positioned and mandated the IMC to implement the decisions of the Cabinet on land reform.

From the onset, the 6th Administration of the democratic government committed to fast-tracking the land reform programme in the country and the IMC was a critical government platform to coordinate and integrate the State efforts and resources to achieve this goal.

This report is a summation of the IMC's achievements on the mandate given to it by the President in July 2018 and it is intended to highlight some of the significant milestones that have been achieved in the past five years. The report furthermore seeks to contextualize this progress within the broader successes achieved since the dawn of democracy, recognising the progress the country has made while also noting the steps to be taken in strengthening the work of government in fast-tracking land reform going forward.

Since the inception of the Land Reform programme in 1994, a total of 5.3 million hectares of land have been acquired through land redistribution, benefitting over 315 000 persons, inclusive of labour tenants, farm dwellers, and Extension of Security of Tenure (ESTA)

occupiers. It is important to note that the 5.3 million hectares (ha) include the 2.4 million hectares acquired through Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS). These hectareage is now due to be transferred to beneficiaries. In the past five years alone, the IMC through the relevant departments and state organs has redistributed 305 990 hectares, where 127 525 ha were allocated to women, 111 071 ha to youth, and 2 781 hectatres to people with disability between 2019 and 2024.

Moreover, in the State of the Nation Address of 2020, the President announced that the government was going to make available about 700,000 ha of agricultural state land for redistribution. The IMC was able to fullfil this commitment, where 659 602 hectares which equals 1 480 farms were allocated by the end of February 2022.

Under the land restitution pillar which is administered through the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, a total of 83,067 claims have been settled between 1995 and 2023, leaving 5407 outstanding claims to be settled. Between 2019 and 2024, a total of 1,494 claims were settled.

About 2.3 million people have benefitted from land restitution, where a total of R25 billion was spent on the restitution of 3 972 331 hectares. An additional R22.5 billion has been spent on financial compensation for those beneficiaries who opted to receive financial compensation instead of the land being transferred.

As the IMC, we can agree that the government has made great strides to fast-track land reform, anchored on the rollout of an extensive agricultural support programme. This will guarantee that as a country, we continue to invest in the productive and efficient use of land assets, which will boost agricultural output and encourage economic growth in targeted areas.

One of the key achievements of the Land Reform Programme has been the successful redistribution of land among landless farmers and marginalised communities. The redistribution of land is indeed transforming the rural landscape for small, medium, and large-scale farmers by promoting efficiencies and the growth of the agricultural producing sector.

More recently and as part of the IMC's outreach program, we have witnessed the immense benefit of this work when the IMC visited successful land reform initiatives in the Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga Province as well as to the Mopani District, in Limpopo Province. We observed significant progress in the government's response to accelerating the country's land reform programme, under its Comprehensive Land Redistribution and Agricultural Development Programme.

These visits reflected positive gains made in the country and provided an example of successful farms acquired through land reform and redistribution under the Restitution of Land Rights Act. This year, in March, we witnessed similar progress in Free State, Bethlehem, when we visited the Apple Production and Agro-processing project, which seeks to transform the apple industry, creating opportunities for localisation, employment creation, and support the industry value chain expansion.

To ensure support for our farming communities, a number of rural infrastructure projects have been delivered by the government in various villages across the nine provinces.

Amongst others, these include mechanization support, infrastructure upgrades, irrigation schemes, and community facilities such as pre-schools, community halls, and Agri-parks. This has also included the construction and rehabilitation of farmer production support units, such as animal handling facilities, animal clinics, dipping tanks, boreholes, fencing, and other infrastructure.

Moreover, as a collective, the IMC has had to deal with the resistance from certain sectors of society that oppose the redistribution of land. Even though the plan has numerous benefits, there are those who fear the perceived erosion of property rights or potential disruptions to existing economic structures. It is imperative that we continue to address these concerns through effective communication and dialogue, emphasising the long-term benefits of land reform for the country and its people.

The inadequate capacity and resources required for the successful implementation of the land reform programme must also be addressed, and we need to implement measures to allocate sufficient funds to ensure the proper identification, surveying, and valuation of land, as well as to provide legal support to beneficiaries. Additionally, the capacity-building of beneficiaries in terms of agricultural techniques, entrepreneurship, and market access is essential to ensuring the sustainability of these ventures.

Furthermore, we must pay special attention to making sure that land released to redress imbalances of the past is used productively by ensuring appropriate recapitalisation through directed grants and infrastructure investments. This is a fundamental right anchored in the Freedom Charter and our Constitution. We must not rest until these rights are realised. We must continue to encourage those who receive the land to use it productively.

In conclusion, government's Land Reform and Agriculture Support programme has made progress in addressing land inequality and promoting an equitable distribution of land resources. Through transparent and participatory processes, land has been redistributed to landless farmers and marginalized communities, leading to increased agricultural productivity and economic development.

Let me express my gratitude to the IMC members for their unwavering dedication to executing initiatives aimed at expediting land reform and restoring the rights of many who have previously been dispossessed of their land individuals. We must continue to accelerate efforts to reverse the centuries-long, systemic, and structural process of land dispossession, which resulted in the forcible removal of millions of Africans from their land for the benefit of a few. We must overcome the remaining obstacles in order to reach our objectives of redress and achieve equitable access to land.

Chairperson of the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture
Deputy President, His Excellency Paul Mashatile

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform and Agriculture wishes to acknowledge the various members of the society, and special task teams or committees that have made immense contributions to its work. Amongst these include the Former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr David Mabuza and members of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

The members of the technical committee of the IMC comprising of the sector departmental Directors-General and management teams.

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1. INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND REFORM AND AGRICULTURE

1.1 Mandate of the IMC

The IMC's mandate is to strengthen the coordination and leadership on land reform and agriculture at the national government level. The IMC serves as a catalyst to support the government's fast-tracking of land reform, as well as to mobilise state resources to increase efficiency, integrate post-settlement support, and sustainability of land redistribution and restitution.

The establishment of the IMC was in line with the President's commitment made during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of 2018, which was to accelerate the land reform programme not only to redress a grave historical injustice but also to bring more producers into the agricultural sector, including availing more land for cultivation towards food security, rural and urban economy development, poverty reduction and strengthening the various economic value chains.

1.2 Terms of Reference for the IMC

The Terms of Reference outline the roles and responsibilities given to the IMC. It states that the IMC will provide political oversight on the implementation of measures aimed at accelerating redistribution and restitution of land in urban and rural areas. The following are specific functions of the IMC:

- a] The IMC will serve as a catalyst to fast-track land restitution and redistribution.
- b] Oversee progress on legislative processes intended to conclude current and pending legislative bills.
- c] Develop and oversee mechanisms for the expeditious resolution of land claims and disputes.
- e] Ensure productive utilisation of restituted and redistributed land, including land of high biodiversity value in and outside protected areas.
- f] Develop and implement post settlement support interventions to enhance production and economic growth.
- g] Develop an Action Plan for specifically enhancing productivity and utilisation of communal land (Massifying production in communal areas including the provision of intensified support before the planting season starts).
- h] Ensure security of tenure for farm dwellers on land already occupied by these households without negatively affecting production.

i] Implement measures to address governance and capacity constraints around Community Property Association (CPAs) and improving institutional capacity to accelerate land reform, particularly the finalisation of outstanding land claims.

j] Accelerate urban land redistribution to decisively change the apartheid geography of cities and towns and unlock economic value in townships, villages and small towns.

k] Coordinate, integrate and ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Constitutional Review and the Advisory Panel on Land Reform.

1.3 IMC Functions and Recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Panel

The Presidential Advisory Panel conducted research and formulated recommendations that formed an action plan for the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture on a broad range of policy and institutional matters with respect to land reform.

Essentially, the Advisory Panel was established to provide expert support to the IMC by undertaking of independent research and analysis; as well as to conduct stakeholder consultations on proposed approaches that the government can pursue to improve its implementation of the land reform and agricultural support programme.

On 11 June 2019, the President Ramaphosa received the Report of the Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, which was subsequently tabled, discussed and endorsed at Cabinet on 24 July 2019.

The Panel made 73 recommendations of which 60 were accepted and 13 were not accepted due range of reasons including impracticality. There were some recommendations that were not endorsed by the Cabinet either because they were already addressed by existing state organs or because they required further details and investigation before being considered for implementation. The IMC translated into 5 thematic areas that formed an action plan for the IMC. About 50 recommendations relates to efficiency improvements and transparency issues regarding the functions that are already carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). It is for this reason that DALRRD was an essential contributor to the work of the IMC and has led to the IMC achieving a number of its targets.

1.4 Plan of Action for the IMC

The IMC accepted the recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Panel and incorporated them into an Action Plan that was implemented between 2019 and 2024. There are five thematic areas namely:

- a] Creating an enabling environment through policy and legislation.
- b] Integrated land administration.
- c] Spatial transformation and development planning.
- d] Strategic acquisition, release, and allocation of land; and
- e] Integrated post-settlement support.

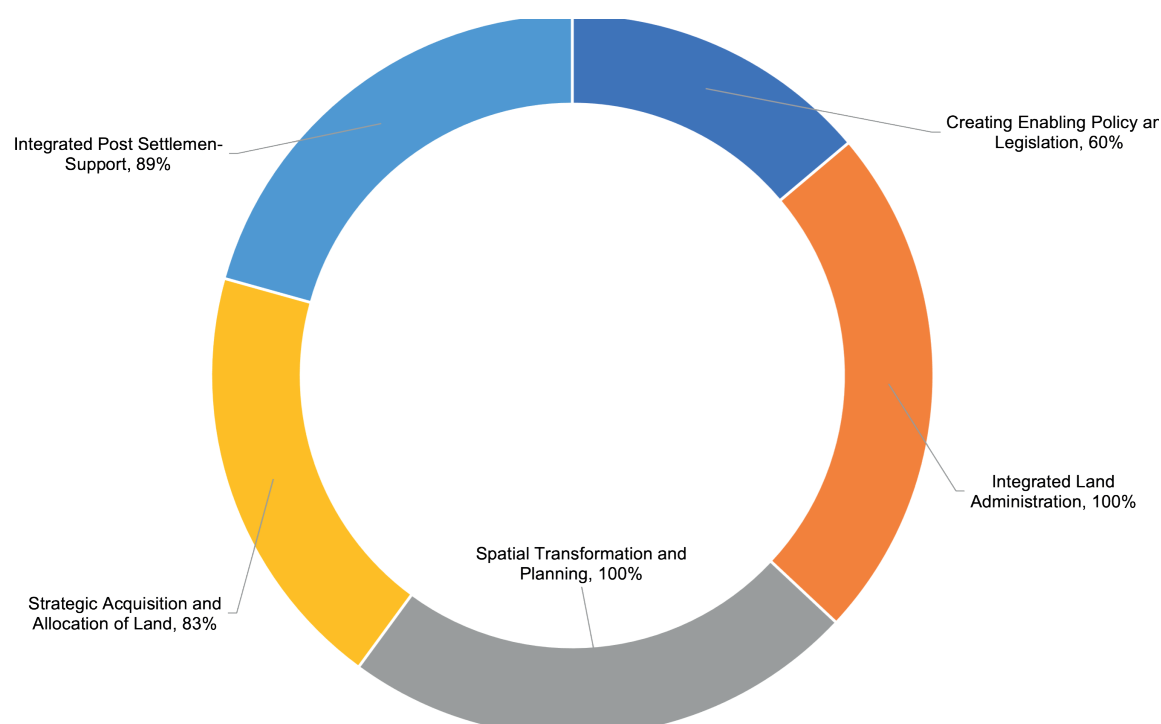
Under thematic area I, there are five sub-focus areas; thematic area II has six sub-focus areas; thematic area III has five sub-focus areas; thematic area IV has 12 sub-focus areas, and thematic area V has 19 sub-focus areas. This implies that the IMC has a total of 47 focused areas of priority that it needs to oversee as part of accelerating the implementation of land reform, as well as to enhance spatial planning and development of urban and rural areas and coordinating the provision of post-settlement support.

1.5 IMC Achievements: July 2018 to May 2024

Figure 1 below provides a high-level summary of the achievements of the IMC on the five thematic areas. Out of the 47 focus areas, the IMC managed to successfully complete 41 focal points, thus achieving an overall 90% success rate in just five years. As illustrated in Figure 1 the outstanding areas are largely on policy and legislation review, which is a process that requires a comprehensive consultation and approval by various arms of the state. The IMC was successful in reviewing, formulating, and presenting the identified policies and legislations to Parliament, however, some are yet to be signed into law.

The provision of post-settlement support and acquisition of land, in particular the settlement of outstanding land claims, are some of the areas that are still ongoing. Moreover, the provision of state land for human settlement remains an ongoing process. On these two thematic areas, the IMC targets aligned with the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) to ensure the budgets of departments is appropriately aligned with established governance processes of the state. As a result, the speed of implementation is determined by MTSF planning, hence, the success rate of the IMC under post-settlement support and land acquisition is not yet at 100%.

Figure 1: High-level summary of the IMC between 2019 and 2024



1.6 Areas for Future Considerations

Though the IMC has made great strides and achieved significant progress in the past five years in the areas of land reform, policy, post-settlement support, and human settlement, there is more work to be done in certain areas to ensure the democratic gains are enjoyed by all citizens, especially the landless, farm dwellers, and vulnerable individuals and communities in rural and urban areas.

On the policy front, the need to formulate legislation that will regulate non-South Africans working in agriculture as well as the issue of foreign land ownership as recommended by the Presidential Advisory Panel remains as an area that requires further work. The IMC recognised the importance of regulating foreign land ownership, hence, this work was included in the consultation process of developing the Land Acquisition and Redistribution Policy and Draft Bill. This work must continue to ensure level policy certainty.

Pertaining to spatial planning and development, in particular, relating to human settlement, the IMC has worked tirelessly to encourage municipalities and State-Owned Companies and Entities to identify and release land for urban development and human settlement purposes more so in high-density urban areas. The increasing migration to urban areas necessitates this work to continue in order to help cities and towns cope with the influx of people seeking economic and financial opportunities in urban areas.

Other areas that require continuous focus is the provision of institutional support to small-scale and subsistence farmers, in particular Institutions representing Black Farmers. The IMC has made inroads in the past five years, however, the inequality gap and budget constraints could potentially reverse the success of land reform, if institutional capacity support is not upscaled in the future. Parallel to institutional support is the promotion of private-public partnership in driving an inclusive agricultural economy, an approach that has been endorsed by the industry, labour, and communities in the work conducted by the IMC when it developed the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan.



2. CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH POLICY AND LEGISLATION

2.1 Finalise Expropriation Bill

Expropriation is recognized as an essential mechanism for the State to acquire property in certain instances (such as essential infrastructure purposes, land reform, and conservation) and is thus protected by the Constitution. The Expropriation Bill (B23 of 2020) is a review of the Expropriation Act 63 of 1975 emanating from a Cabinet decision of 15 September 2004. For many years, the expropriation of land reform in South Africa has been a contentious issue and has necessitated a review of current expropriation laws.

The main objective of the Expropriation Bill is to ensure that expropriation laws are in line with the Constitution of South Africa. The new Bill that was introduced to Parliament clearly outlines how expropriation can be done and on what bases.

Local, provincial, and national authorities will use this Bill, once signed into legislation, to expropriate land in the public interest for varied reasons that seek to amongst others, promote inclusivity and access to natural resources.

The general framework for expropriation is outlined in Section 25 of the Constitution which provides that property may be expropriated only in terms of law of general application and that no law may permit arbitrary deprivation of property. The Constitution further determines that (i) expropriation may only occur for a public purpose or in the public interest and subject to payment of compensation; and (ii) "public interest" includes the nation's commitment to land reform, reforms to bring about equitable access to all South Africa's natural resources and other reforms to redress the results of past racially discriminatory laws or practices.

The Expropriation Bill [B23 of 2020] has been undergoing the parliamentary processes since 2015. Parliament, in particular the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) considered different Provincial Mandates on the Bill and produced a report in support of the Bill. The Report was further considered by the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, which culminated in the Bill being considered by the National Assembly. The Bill was voted on by the National Assembly in 2024 and was approved for tabling to the President for consideration. Currently, the Bill before the President for sign-off consideration.

2.2 Revise Property Valuation Act

The Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) discharges its legislative mandate by implementing its foundational Act, the Property Valuation Act (PVA) 17 of 2014. The Act determines that the OVG must be impartial, exercise its powers, perform its functions, and be accountable to the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural

Development.

The Act only makes provisions for the regulation of valuations in respect of land acquisition for land reform purposes, not for rating and taxing purposes. The Act requires the OVG to value land identified for land reform not according to market value but according to the method prescribed by the Constitution to determine just and equitable compensation for expropriation. It furthermore requires the OVG to make recommendations to the Minister regarding criteria for the determination of the value of property and procedures and guidelines.

There have been several concerns and court judgments on the role and functions of the OVG, mainly relating to disputes on the offers made to landowners based on the formula contained in the PVA regulations. This has added to calls for a review of the PVA, the role and methods of the OVG, hence, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development appointed a Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP) in December 2019 to consider the revision of the PVA.

The MAP has produced its report for consideration by the Minister. The Minister raised matters for consideration by the Panel and the Panel has now concluded the process of revising the report and are now in the process of finalizing the report for approval. The approved report is expected to be submitted to the Minister in May 2024

2.3 Finalise Land Court Bill

The Land Claims Court (the LCC) was established in terms of Section 22(1) of the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994. It has exclusive jurisdiction and powers in respect of matters relating to land, more specifically on restitution claims arising from the Restitution Act. It also has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with matters arising from the application of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act of 1996, and it shares jurisdiction with the magistrates' courts in respect of matters arising from the application of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act of 1997.

Challenges such as the lack of permanency of judges in the LCC and the absence of permanent seats in the LCC contributed to the slow processing of and backlogs in land restitution claims, resulting in the dissatisfaction of land claimants.

To improve the implementation of land restitution claims, the IMC decided to review the legislative framework and address its weaknesses. The IMC introduced the Land Court Bill to establish a specialised Land Court, with its judgments appealable to its full bench. Furthermore, the Bill aimed to establish a Land Court (the Court) with jurisdiction to grant an order, appropriate relief, or impose any sanction as provided for by the Bill or any other law that confers jurisdiction on the court. It also seeks to establish an appeal process to hear and determine appeals emanating from the judgments and orders of the Court. Moreover, it provides for mediation.

The Land Court Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 13 June 2023 and sent to the President to assent. The President assented to and signed the Bill on 26 September 2023. The Act has been gazetted as the Land Court Act No 6 of 2023. Consultation on the

Regulations is underway (published for comments on 12 April 2024) and consulting with the Minister of Finance is ongoing to operationalize the Sections of the Act.

2.4 Regulate Foreign Land Ownership

There was a widespread perception that ownership of land by foreigners was denying access to South Africans to land. The Cabinet in August 2004 had requested the then Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs to investigate the extent of the phenomenon. The Minister had appointed a committee, the Panel of Experts, to make recommendations. The Panel of Experts had concluded that it was justified to regulate land for the purpose of land reform and housing. The Panel established that a national policy on the regulation of foreign ownership of land was compatible with the global norm.

The IMC will continue with the work to formulate regulations that will deal with foreign land ownership. The matter on the regulation of land ownership by Foreign Nationals and Entities is being considered in the Land Acquisition and Redistribution Policy and Draft Bill.

2.5 Beneficiary selection and land allocation Policy

The Advisory Panel recommended for the development of Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation Policy. The IMC drafted the policy and submitted it to Cabinet for approval. Cabinet approved this policy on December 2020. The National Policy seeks to promote the transparency and fairness in the selection of beneficiaries of land reform and to also to protect the vulnerable groups. To that extent the policy has provided a for fair institutional arrangements and processes that adjudicate the selection and allocation of land. The policy further prioritises vulnerable groups such women, youth and person living with disabilities, to that extent women should receive 50%, youth 40% and people living with disabilities get 10% of land allocation. The implementation of this policy enables the state to deliberately address the plight of the vulnerable members of our society and enable them to have access to land and secured tenure rights.

2.6 Land Donation Policy

The land reform programme is a huge program that cannot only be driven by government alone, and participation of the members of the society is critical important for the success and to achieve a sustainable land reform outcome. The Presidential Advisory Report also recommended participation of landowners in offering land through donation to enhance land reform. To achieve this recommendation, Land Donation Policy was developed through the guidance of the IMC, and after public consultations, the policy was approved by cabinet in December 2020. The policy promotes landowners to donate whilst also outlining some tax incentive and the state to carry conveyancing cost for such a transaction. The implementation of the policy has commenced and there are various activities undertaken to popularise the policy and its benefits to the land reform program and the society. There is a progress on the donation especially for human settlement and farming purposes and this work will be continued to the next administration.

2.7 Regulate Employment of Agricultural Workers that are Non-South African

Agriculture in South Africa is a labour-intensive sector that employs roughly 850, 000 people on average each year for the past decade. Because of the seasonality of farming activities, the sector employs a number of foreign nationals to assist with these high-seasonality activities. On 10 November 2020, the National Assembly requested the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour to conduct joint oversight activities concerning the living and working conditions in farming communities.

During the oversight work, serious concern over the employment of foreign nationals in the agricultural sector was raised which necessitated the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture to consider the regulations of foreign workers on farms. The oversight work also reveals that agricultural labour is becoming increasingly casualized and poorly regulated leading to more exploitative practices and eroding the protection offered by legislation or unionization.

Through the work of the IMC, the Department of Employment and Labour has formulated a Draft National Labour Migration Policy published in 2022. The purpose of the policy is to address the gaps identified in the general application of law and policies regulating the migration of labour and employment of foreign workers amongst other key factors.

In the main, the Labour Migration Policy is expected to address South Africans' expectations regarding access to work for South Africans and regulate the foreign national employment that is perceived to distort the labour market in the country. Furthermore, the policy will regulate the issuing of permits to foreign workers, where the skills are not listed as scarce and critical skills under the Department of Higher Education and Training.



3. INTEGRATED LAND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Pilot the Recordal of Land Rights

The pilot for the recordal of land rights in communal areas is critical for the Department and government in the development of the Communal Land Tenure Policy, the Communal Land Bill and the testing of the EDRS, a trial version of Recordal tool has been supplied to the Recordal of Land Tenure Rights in Communal Areas (RLTRCA). The pilot will enable the Department to collect information and develop evidence-based policy and legislation supported by the lessons and practical experiences on the ground. Furthermore, the pilot will assist the Department to deal with the following key challenges facing Land Administration and Communal Tenure in Rural areas.

Four of the Nine Provinces were selected as Pilot Projects sites for the recordal of the Communal Land Rights namely, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KZN. The current pilot is in the Eastern Cape targeting 10 villages and has been undertaken in the Amahleke Traditional Authority in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in the Amathole District.

Considerable progress has been made in this regard, the Mzintshane village has a total of 326 homesteads and buildings (community hall etc). The number of households recorded to date amounts to 269 and for the Pirie Mission 67 have been captured.

3.2 Consultation With Traditional Authorities On Land Tenure Reform

On 3 March 2021, the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture presented to the Cabinet a draft Paper on Land Administration and Land Tenure in Communal Areas which was approved for further public consultations. The intensive consultation with various stakeholders including the Traditional leaders and their communities, Academia, civil society, and legal experts was done and that culminated in the National Summit which was held in May 2022. The National Summit produced 38 Outcomes. The 38 Outcomes, together with proposed government responses to these outcomes were supported by Cabinet on 20 March 2024. One of the outcomes was the need to have a Communal Land Tenure Act. To this effect, a Communal Land Bill has been drafted and it is going through internal consultation before going to Cabinet for approval to undergo public consultations. The Communal Land Tenure Policy has also been drafted to ensure security of land rights in tandem with the intended legislation.

The Communal Land Bill is aimed at addressing the legislative measure contemplated in Section 25(6) of the Constitution which states that "a person or community whose tenure of land is legally insecure as a result of past racially discriminatory laws or practices is entitled, to the extent provided by an Act of Parliament, either to tenure which is legally secure or to comparable redress".

The Bill gives effect to the commitment of the government to divest its ownership of communal land and transfer land it holds in Trust to traditional communities already occupying the land or to land rights holders or to de-factor owners. The objectives of the

Bill include amongst others (i) ensuring the transfer of ownership of communal land by the State and other organs of the State to persons and communities occupying such land; (ii) ensuring that communal land is registered in the name of a person or community occupying such land; and (iii) creating dispute resolution mechanisms on matters relating to communal land rights.

The Bill is not the first attempt by the democratic state to pass legislation in terms of Section 25(6) of the Constitution. The Communal Land Rights Act of 2004 was challenged because (i) it conferred powers to administer communal land on traditional councils in violation of Section 9 of the Constitution, and (ii) it was wrongly tagged as a Section 75 Bill instead of Section 76.

The Departments are currently working on the implementation of the outcomes and engagements with stakeholders have commenced. The consultation with the House of Traditional and Khoi and San Leaders commenced in March 2024 through the Inter-Ministerial Technical Task Team (IMTT). It is envisaged that the Communal Land Policy and Bill will be introduced to Parliament in the seventh administration and the process be completed in the 2025/26 financial year.

3.3 Amend the Deeds Legislation and Implement the Electronic Deeds Registration System

The amendment of the Deeds Legislation will facilitate and modernize the realization of land tenure and registration which is legally secure as contemplated in Section 25(6) of the Constitution. It will facilitate the compilation of statistics relating to land ownership patterns in South Africa. The Deeds Registration system will be transformed to be able to provide information regarding the ownership of land rights for all citizens of South Africa once recordals are formally rolled out in line with the enabling legislation that will be developed. Information regarding the nationality, race, and gender of landowners will start to be collected and recorded to ensure more accurate land audits in future.

Registration of land and rights in land is a national competency and is effected through deeds registries established in terms of section 1 of the Deeds Registries Act of 1937. The deed registries have the function of registering ownership of land and rights in land acknowledged by common law and other legislation. Currently, the procedure relating to such registrations is performed manually and in terms of the provisions contained in the Deeds Registries Act of 1937 and the Sectional Titles Act of 1986.

Electronic deeds registration will be facilitated by the Electronic Deeds Registration System Act 19 of 2019. This Act makes provisions amongst others, for the Chief Registrar of Deeds to develop the electronic deeds registration system for the preparation, lodgement, registration, execution, and storing of deeds and documents.

The amendment of Act 19 of 2019 will result in improved registration procedures and provide uniformity concerning the practice and procedure-related matters in deeds registries. These amendments are technical in nature and aim to benefit owners of land and real rights in land, in so far as it further provides for security of title.



4. SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

4.1 Identify Land Needs and Release Land For Integrated Human Settlements, Agriculture, and Socio-Economic Development.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) supports the work of the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture by identifying land and facilitating its release to advance human settlements development, land restitution, and redistribution.

For human settlement purposes, Cabinet approved the release of the identified 167 land parcels measuring 14 105 ha in 2019. The land was held by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructures (DPWI). Between 2019 and 2023, the DPWI successfully released 2500 hectares for human settlement, the majority of which were in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, North West, Northern Cape, and the Eastern Cape provinces. Parallel to land released for human settlement, DPWI also released land for socio-economic development. The land parcels released for socio-economic development include 25 land parcels released to Eskom for the expansion of the national energy grid. The Department has released 9 793 ha for socio-economic purposes. Some of these land parcels were released to SANRAL for road infrastructure development and some land parcels to Eskom servitudes for the expansion of some substations to increase electricity supply.

There is, however, land that cannot be released by the DPWI to the extent of 96 of the 167 land parcels measuring 9 980 ha due to the following reasons:

- a] About 28 parcels measuring 370 ha were not available due to inter alia, the utilisation by use departments and custodianship vesting with other spheres of the government and privately owned parties.
- b] About 63 land parcels measuring 550 ha identified in 2019 were currently used by the Department of Defence comprising four military bases.
- c] About 5 land parcels in Limpopo comprise of the two encumbered land parcels and a restitution land claim.

To support the land reform programme, the IMC through DPWI identified 539 properties, where 261 properties are settled land claims equating to 141 606 ha; and 278 properties are yet to be settled measuring 267 637 hectares. Between 2019 and 2023, the DPWI has successfully validated and released 219 properties measuring 150 551 ha for the land restoration purposes.

Table 1: State Land Released for Land Restitution Programme

Provinces	Number of Properties	Total Extent (Hectares)
Eastern Cape	15	3 908
Free State	-	-
Gauteng	-	-
KwaZulu Natal	12	5 772
Limpopo	11	4 801
Mpumalanga	16	9 883
Northern Cape	5	116 135
North West	143	7 579
Western Cape	17	3
Total	219	150 551

Over and above, the DPWI released 125 properties under the Financial Assistance Land (FALA) properties measuring 25 549 ha to DALRRD for release to farmers through land redistribution. FALA properties were purchased through the Agricultural Credit Board, the then State-Owned Entity under the previous government regime. When the Board was dissolved in the new dispensation, these properties were registered in the government's name under the custodianship of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

These land parcels were released to the black emerging farmers to contribute to the transformation of the agricultural sector in the country. The Department is finalizing an additional release of 3 101 ha for the FALA program to support Land Redistribution.

4.2 Fast Track Delivery of Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas

In May 2020, the Department of Human Settlements identified and promulgated 136 Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDA) in the country. These are areas intended to advance human settlement spatial transformation and consolidation by ensuring that the delivery of housing is used to restructure and revitalise towns and cities. It is also intended to strengthen the livelihood prospects of households and overcome apartheid spatial patterns by fostering integrated urban development.

Between 2019 and 2023, the IMC through relevant state organs, has developed integrated implementation programmes for approximately 110 of the 136 PHSHDAs. These programmes have been prepared and are being processed for adoption. Provinces across the country have allocated 11.06% of the Human Settlements Development Grants and 6.47% of the Informal Settlements Grant to the PHSHDAs initiative to advance its goals.

4.3 Identify Derelict State-Owned Buildings in Cities and Towns for Housing

The DPWL as one of the main State property custodians are in the process of analysing its immovable property portfolio with an emphasis on derelict state-owned buildings in cities and towns which can be used for housing including those for civil servants and student accommodation. This will assist in addressing the housing shortages and access to housing in close proximity to places of work and learning. The Department is working with the Department of Higher Education and Training and other custodian departments to expedite the process and the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture is providing the oversight role to fast-track this process.

4.4 Pro-Actively Build Alternative Housing in Well-Located Areas for Evictees and Tenure Insecure Urban Residents

The Department of Human Settlements is committed to facilitating and supporting the creation of sustainable and integrated human settlements across the country. This commitment is in response to the National Development Plan (NDP) and is outlined in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019–2014, which includes the promotion of social inclusion, economic growth, ensuring that beneficiaries obtain security of tenure, and spatial restructuring. In support of the MTSF goal, the IMC through the Department of Human Settlements has set aside targets to pro-actively build alternative housing in well-located areas for evictees and tenure insecure urban residents.

The target for housing was 300 000 units and 227 404 units have been completed by the end of 2023 for serviced sites, and to date a total of 226 490 units have been completed. The target for state built rental units was 18 000 units and a total of 13 286 have been completed by end of 2023. Regarding the first-time finance buyers grant, a target of 20 000 was set and a total of 25 654 recipients have benefited by end of year 2023. When it comes to community residential units, a target of 5000 was set and a total of 2 432 units have been built by the end of year 2023

4.5 Pilot Agri-Villages by Prioritising the Eviction Hotspots in Rural Areas, Especially Labour Tenants and Farm Dwellers.

In the North West province, two farms have been acquired in Hartebeesfontein measuring 205 hectares, and in Buffelsvallei measuring 9.3 hectares for the agri-village development to cater to labour tenants and farm dwellers. The respective municipalities were consulted and brought into the programme to provide essential services such as water and sanitation.

In Mpumalanga province, three farms have been acquired to date in Emakhazeni, Mkhondo, and Pixley Ka Seme local municipalities. Approximately 80 housing units have been developed on these properties to accommodate families, including the provision of solar energy supply and other essential services.

In the Western Cape province, 59 families have been evicted from the Ashanti Wine Estate in Paarl and the province is currently working on the project to establish an Agri-village for these affected families.

In Gauteng province, the proposed Agri-village for the City of Tshwane is related to the Hazeldean occupiers' eviction case affecting 30 families. The matter has been in court for several years and in early 2024, an agreement was reached with affected parties and a new site has been identified for their relocation. The Department acquired the farm, and the Municipality has agreed to be the developer and the process is ongoing for the development of 30 stands.

In Limpopo province, a farm has been acquired in the Capricorn area for the seven families which were evicted, and it will be used to pilot an Agri-village concept in the province. The municipality is on board and the planning for development is progressing.

In the Eastern Cape province in the Amathole district, a landowner has donated 106 hectares of land to 38 farm dwellers families protected in terms of ESTA and the parties agreed to establish an Agri-village.



5. STRATEGIC ACQUISITION, RELEASE AND ALLOCATION OF LAND

5.1 Speed up the settlement of all outstanding lodged land claims through expropriation where necessary.

The mandate for restitution is derived from Section 25 (7) of the Constitution which provides that “a person or community disposed of a right in land, after 19 June 1913, as a result of past racially discriminatory laws or practices is entitled, to the extent provided by an Act of Parliament, to restitution of that property or to equitable redress. Parliament passed the Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994 (as amended) to give effect to land restitution. The Act also establishes the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights (CRLR).

In terms of first-order land claims that were lodged, a total of 83 205 claims have been settled to date, with a total of 5 787 outstanding claims. The table below details the number of claims settled across provinces and also shows the share of the remaining outstanding claims.

Table 2: Cumulative Claims Settled from 1995 to March 2024

Provinces	Claims Lodged	Claims Settled	Outstanding Claims	Share of Claims Outstanding
Eastern Cape	17 662	17 258	443	2.5%
Limpopo	5 998	4 834	1 180	19.7%
Mpumalanga	5 049	3 450	1 613	31.9%
Northern Cape	4 089	4 069	22	0.5%
North West	4 063	3 981	82	2.0%
Western Cape	17 705	17 488	234	1.3%
Total	88 843	83 205	5 787	6.5%

5.2 Implement the Allocation of 700 000 Hectares of State Land for Agriculture

During the State of the Nation Address of 2020, the President announced that the government was going to make available about 700 000 hectares of agricultural state land for redistribution. Although referred to as 700 000 hectares, the exact extent of land made available is 691 524 hectares.

Between February 2020 and 2021, the state released 436 563 hectares and by the end of February 2022, a total of 659 602 hectares which equals to 1 480 farms were approved for allocation which translates into 99 per cent completion of the project. About 24,660 hectares were withdrawn from the project due to the legal challenge and the decision allocate the land differently in Limpopo and Eastern Cape Provinces respectively.

Table 3: State Land Released for Agricultural Development and Black Farmer Support

Provinces	Number of State Farms	Extent (Hectares)
Eastern Cape	132	51 158
Free State	19	6 407
Gauteng	2	929
KwaZulu Natal	23	6 944
Limpopo	175	119 959
Mpumalanga	242	49 069
North West	793	353 423
Northern Cape	58	67 396
Western Cape	-	-
Total	1 458	659 602

5.3 Reintroduce the Grant System To Give Freehold Title To Beneficiaries

When the land redistribution programme was introduced at the dawn of democracy, it relied on a grant system for individuals to purchase their own land. The first land redistribution programme was the Settlement and Land Acquisition Grant (SLAG) which was introduced in 1997 and administered at the national level. SLAG was built around a R15,000 grant allocation which households could use to purchase land both for residential and agricultural purposes.

In 2001 the government introduced the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme to replace the faltering SLAG. It was a major departure from SLAG in two respects. Firstly, LRAD focused on acquiring land specifically for agricultural production purposes. Secondly, there was a significant increase in the financial support package and further changes to the beneficiary profile, where LRAD could give a grant to the tune of R100 000 per beneficiary who wants to purchase land.

In 2007, the focus shifted to the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) which was a departure from a grant system into a leasehold type of arrangement with the beneficiaries. In 2019, the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture proposed a reintroduction of the grant system to upscale the provision of title deeds to beneficiaries. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development is currently working the introduction of the new policy and legislation in line with section 25(5) of the Constitution in order address land redistribution leg of land reform. This will cater for the introduction of the grant system to give freehold title to land beneficiaries from the inception of land allocation. It is expected that the new policies will be tabled in Cabinet in the next administration of government.

5.4 Popularise The Land Donation Policy

The government has developed the Land Donation Policy to help improve the contribution of private citizens to the land reform programme. It provides guidelines on how institutions, individuals, and trusts can donate land to the state for land reform. The IMC was tasked by the Cabinet to popularize the land donation policy and increase its awareness and impact.

The related work of the IMC in this regard is underway. Most departments have identified key stakeholders and opportunities for land donation and initial engagements have been undertaken with stakeholders. However, departments are at different levels of securing approvals to proceed from within their respective line-function mandates and the IMC will continue to oversee this work.

5.5 Department of Public Works and Infrastructure To Release The Remaining Parcels of Land For Restitution Purposes

At the onset of the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture, the Department of Public Works was tasked to identify and release 35 parcels of land for restitution purpose and socio-economic development. A total of 95 land parcels were released equating to 35 810 hectares.

5.6 Other Focus Areas on Acquisition and allocation of Land for security of Tenure

In order to address the security of tenure for farm dwellers protected by Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997 land was acquired by the State and donated to secure their land tenure rights. For Labour Tenants who are protected by the Land Reform Labour Tenants Act, 1996 claims have been settled by acquiring and donating land to labour tenants in settlement of their claims and security of their land tenure. There are over 28 367 hectares of land that have been acquired benefiting 1 588 beneficiaries including 665 women, 448 youth from 402 households in the past five years.

Table 4: Land Acquired for Security of Tenure Since 2019 till 2024

Hectares Acquired	Tenure	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Women	Number of Youth	Number of Households
2019/20	8,212	403	130	85	91
2020/21	7,128	90	57	39	15
2021/22	4,013	538	277	178	202
2022/23	5,270	232	52	32	47
2023/24	5 907	325	157	114	47
Total	30 530	1,588	673	448	402

To further support this priority area, the DALRRD has prioritized the settlement of outstanding labour tenant claims. The Land Claims Court appointed the Special Master on Labour Tenants to work with the Department on expediting the settlement of these labour tenants' claims. The Department received a total of 20 325 applications in seven (7) provinces with most claims being registered in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. A total of 10 992 claims have been finalized, with over 9 333 claims still outstanding.

One other area that was important to the IMC's work, were the improvement and stability of the Communal Property Associations (CPAs). The CPAs are one of the modalities to hold land on behalf of communities and beneficiaries of land reform. There are several CPAs that are experiencing governance challenges, and that hinders the success of land reform.

Amongst the interventions to mitigate this challenge, DALRRD is currently conducting an audit of all the CPAs, and the results of the audit will determine the remedial measures to be implemented going forward. In terms of addressing governance weaknesses, one of the interventions launched provides for the training of CPA executives to empower them with leadership, governance skills and knowledge. In this regard, over 3 000 members, including executive CPA members have thus far received training. The Minister and Deputy Minister of DALRRD held focussed meetings with CPAs, and this has assisted in further understanding of the challenges experienced by CPAs and how they can be resolved.

Communal tenure remains another priority for the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture. The process is underway to expedite the transfer of land in relation to the Transformation of Certain Rural Areas Act 94 of 1998 (TRANCRAA), in four provinces, where certain land is held in trust for the respective communities. Currently, 593 167 hectares are transferred in these areas.

Table 5: TRANCRAA

Year	TRANCRAA Hectares
2019/20	18,423
2022/23	106,485
2023/24	473 938
Total	599 150

In March 2022, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform and Agriculture recommended that the transfer of land currently under leasehold to current lessees or occupants to achieve freehold title. This measure was underpinned by the fact that the current lease model falls short of the constitutional requirement of providing equitable access to land. It also limits beneficiaries' access to private capital for development.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development identified 3 197 129 hectares, equivalent to 6 238 properties. About 5 175 properties or 2.6 million hectares are PLAS farms, 65 000 hectares are Financial Assistance Land (FALA), and 500 000 hectares are the South African Development Trust (SADT) properties. Table 15 outlines properties per province falling under the State Land Transfer project.

Table7: Number of Properties to be Transferred to Lessees or Occupants

Province	Number of Properties	Area Size (Hectares)
Eastern Cape	1 014	355 178
Free State	692	242 697
Gauteng	425	49 615
KwaZulu Natal	938	249 389
Limpopo	412	242 176
Mpumalanga	1 030	326 233
North West	1 083	798 989
Northern Cape	356	821 326
Western Cape	288	111 527
Total	6238	197 129



6. INTEGRATED POST SETTLEMENT SUPPORT

6.1 Develop A Post Settlement Strategy For Land Reform

The IMC through the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development has developed a National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support (NPCPDS) to guide the design and implementation of farmer support and post-settlement support to the land reform beneficiaries. This policy was approved by Cabinet in March 2024.

The objectives of the National Policy on Comprehensive Produce Development Support (NPCPDS) are:

- a] To define and standardise the categories of producers in the South African agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector.
- b] To facilitate the development and access of appropriate support services tailored to meet the needs of the various categories of producers along the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries value chains.
- c] To establish a Comprehensive Register of Producers that will serve as a prerequisite for accessing support from Government.
- d] To protect, improve, and optimally utilise scarce natural resources (e.g. land, water, biodiversity and genetic resources) by advocating for and supporting environmentally friendly production practices.
- e] To provide measures to establish systems for the timely provision of inputs and basic infrastructure for producers.
- f] To facilitate and mainstream the participation of youth, women, and persons with disabilities in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.
- g] To strengthen institutional mechanisms to better coordinate support provided to the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors to avoid competition and unnecessary duplication.
- h] To provide for suitable disaster risk management measures to improve producers' adaptation and mitigation to climate change and climate variability as well as for adequate and timely compensation of producers.

6.2 Popularise And Implement Proposals For Responding To Crime And Violence Arising From Land-Related Conflicts

Crime and violence arising from land related conflicts in rural and farming areas has a negative impact on food security in South Africa. To address issues of rural safety, the IMC approved a Rapid Response Strategy which covers the components of responding to crime and violence arising from land-related conflicts. One key intervention is land rights awareness campaigns which were conducted in hotspot Areas including two awareness and education campaigns in Mpumalanga, two in the Western Cape, two in the KwaZulu Natal, and two in the Free State.

To address the security of tenure for farm dwellers (farm occupiers and labour tenants) a total of 5 270 ha were acquired to address the land needs of the farm dwellers. Moreover, the provision of Legal representation through Legal Aid South Africa and Mediation services by DALRRD to farm dwellers faced with unlawful evictions remains an ongoing matter.

6.3 Massify Production in Communal Areas Including The Provision Of Intensified Support Before The Planting Season Starts

In the past five years, the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture have refocused the implementation of various programmes aimed at massifying production in communal areas working with provinces and Traditional Leaders. First, it is the Land Development Support Programme which is aimed at supporting land reform farms that have been allocated to farmers. About 70,502 hectares have been revitalised and supported to improve productivity.

Secondly, the DALRRD partnering with the Presidency, Solidarity Fund, and Traditional Leaders revitalised over 350,000 hectares of communal land by providing vouchers for the inputs and mechanization through the Presidential Employment Stimulus Initiative (PESI). Thirdly, the DALRRD continues to implement conditional grants for production, on-farm infrastructure, and planting purposes through Provinces using the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and the Ilima-Letsema programme. Furthermore, the Land Care programme is being implemented to restore the soil fertility and potential of degraded communal land that has been impacted by overgrazing and erosion.

6.4 Preferential Allocation of Water Rights To Smallholder Farmers As Part Of The Water Allocation Reform

The IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture through the Department of Water and Sanitation has reformed the water rights allocation policies and developed a Water Master Plan. The Master Plan includes policy development to address inequality on water, especially for the smallholder farmers, taking actions to protect and develop national water resources, and making provision for adequate allocation and reliable supply of water to all citizens.

Through the implementation of the Water and Sanitation Master Plan, the Department of Water and Sanitation has issued 107 water rights licenses to Historically Disadvantaged Individuals to irrigate 3 208 ha of agricultural land which amounts to 26,3Mm³/a. During the same period, afforestation licenses issued amounted to 1270,56 ha.

6.5 Addressing Challenges in Hotspot Areas Where People Are Protesting for Water: The Plan Must Include Extent Of The Problem And The Implementation Costs

In 2023 a Drops Watch Report was released to assess and provide insights on the performance of Water Services Authority in relation to water and sanitation services. The DWS in collaboration with CoGTA has developed a draft action plan with intervention on how to address poor performance which was presented to the Cabinet. Since then, a complete Water Services Improvement Plan (WSIP) was developed and implemented by the DWS. Moreover, the DWS established a Water Partnerships Office in collaboration

with the DBSA, which will assist DWS in facilitating private sector participation in the development of water resources and the delivery of municipal water and sanitation services, such as through investment in desalination plants, non-revenue water, and water re-use projects.

6.6 Support For Black Farmers And Infrastructure Provisions To Black Farmers

Various programmes are implemented by the DALRRD through provinces and State-Owned Entities. Programmes such as Agricultural Trusts and Statutory Levies are implemented in partnership with private Commodity Associations. Annually, the DALRRD through Trusts and Levies makes provision for approximately R3 billion to private Commodity Associations to support farmers in data collection, research, market development, and transformation.

Moreover, the implementation of the Agri-Parks programme in particular the Farmer Producer Support Unit (FPSU) component addresses the infrastructure deficit faced by black farmers. These programmes have built rural roads, processing facilities, storage infrastructure, animal handling facilities, and dipping tanks, amongst other interventions undertaken by the government through the guidance of the IMC.

6.7 Finalise The Agriculture And Agro-processing Master Plan

The Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) was developed by the government, industry, labour and communities between 2020 and 2022 and it was launched in May 2022 by all social partners. Implementation and monitoring are currently underway and coordinated by the National Agricultural Marketing Council. Amongst the programmes emanating from the AAMP is the implementation of the Blended Finance Scheme which has been launched with the Land Bank and Industrial Development Cooperations. The implementation of the scheme will be expanded to commercial banks to ensure access to affordable finance is made universal.

6.8 Implement the Blended Funding Model

In the past five years, the government has implemented numerous farmer support programmes to address the financial needs of farmers. These programs include the Blended Finance Scheme in partnership with the Developmental Financial Institutions and grant funds like the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP). Through the Blended Finance Scheme, a total of R1.2 billion has been disbursed through the Industrial Development Cooperation, supporting 22 projects, creating 881 jobs between 2019 and 2023. Furthermore, through the R1.95 billion blended finance, the Land Bank has supported 57 projects which created 12,000 jobs. In ameliorating the effects of power shortages in the sector, the government launched the Agro-Energy Fund financed to the tune of R2.5 billion to assist the farmers and agri-businesses in setting up alternative energy sources for their operations.

Noting the importance of grant support to farmers, the government continued to support farmers through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Package (CASP). Through CASP a total of R4.3 billion, supporting 1 975 projects and 53 068 farmers, was utilised. Ilima/Letsema through a R2.3 billion grant supported 1 900 projects and 252 306 farmers. During

the height of COVID two programmes were implemented, firstly the Special Covid-19 Support Grant and secondly, the Presidential Employment Stimulus Initiative (PESI). The Special COVID Support Fund assisted 152 000 farmers with vouchers up to R50 000 and the PESI assisted 59 297 subsistence farmers with vouchers.

6.9 Develop an Industrial Strategy For Cannabis

In July 2019, the Cabinet approved the development of the National Industrialisation Strategy on Cannabis. The Cabinet gave the responsibility of this task to the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture. One of the major impediments to progress on the industrialisation of cannabis is the legal status of cannabis as it remained a listed product in terms of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992. In the past five years, A cannabis Master Plan has been developed to strengthen coordination amongst the affected departments and promote the industrialisation of the crop.

The Minister of Health approved changes in regulations in 2020 to the scheduling of the Cannabis plants and its cannabinoids under the Medicines and Related Substances Act of 1965. With these revised schedules, cannabis with a low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or hemp was exempted from the regulation paving the way for the declaration of hemp as an agricultural crop.

Subsequently, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development declared hemp as an agricultural crop in terms of the Plant Improvement Act of 1976. The declaration of hemp as an agricultural crop provides for the control over hemp propagation material and primary production of hemp. A total of 738 permits have been issued for hemp cultivation since the declaration of hemp as an agricultural crop.

The Agricultural Research Council had previously developed two hemp varieties, and, with the support of DALRRD is currently undergoing a second season of seed multiplication to make it available for the 2025 planting season. To further secure consensus and alignment on critical interventions to advance the Cannabis Master Plan, the DALRRD together with the Presidency hosted a Phakisa in June 2023 on Cannabis involving government, business, civil society, labour, and academia.

7. Conclusions

This close-out report summarises the land reform and post settlement support interventions that have happened in the last 30 years but with specific focus of work that has been implemented through IMC since 2018. The 2019 Presidential Advisory Panel on land reform and agriculture report's recommendations laid a firm foundation for the program of action (POA) of the IMC.

There is a lot of ground that was successfully covered during the implementation of POA for the IMC from 2018 until 2024 as reflected in this report. Some of the highlights include the passing of the Expropriation Bill, and Land Court Bill by Parliament to enable faster implementation of the land reform programme of government. The approval and implementation of Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation Policy and Land Donation Policy have impact on the future of land report especially on equitable access to land and security of tenure for vulnerable communities. Although there is still more work to be done to realise the constitutional obligation such as Section 25(5,6,7) and the acquisition

and allocation of over 9 million hectares of land that have benefited millions vulnerable people that include women who have access to land with secured tenure.,

The amendment of the Deeds Legislation will facilitate and modernize the realization of land tenure and registration which is legally secure as contemplated in Section 25(6) of the Constitution. To foster integrated land administration, the pilot of the recordal of land rights was undertaken and to date 10 villages have been covered mainly in the Eastern Cape province. Further work in this regard will continue in the seventh administration. The release of state land for various land reform purpose has demonstrated the commitment of government to improve the living conditions of the South Africans in various ways i.e. human settlement, secured land rights, access to land and economic development.

Finally, there are various activities that were initiated by government during the period under review that were not completed, but currently underway in terms of their implementation and will be continued into the next administration. It is the intention of government to continue pursue all the critical activities that were initiated during the sixth administration such the revision of Property Valuation Act, Policy on Foreign Land Ownership, Communal Tenure and Land Redistributions Legislation and other work to improve living condition such human settlement, spatial transformation, rural safety, sustainable agriculture, and protection of land rights.

ABBREVIATIONS

AAMP	-	Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan
CASP	-	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme
CPA	-	Communal Property Association
CRLR	-	Commission on Restitution of Land Rights
DALRRD	-	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DPWI	-	Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
EDRS	-	Electronic Deeds Registration System
ESTA	-	Extension of Security of Tenure Act
FALA	-	Financial Assistance Land
IMC	-	Inter-Ministerial Committee
IMTT	-	Inter-Ministerial Technical Team
LCC	-	Land Claims Court
LRAD	-	Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development
MTSF	-	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NCOP	-	National Council of Provinces
NDP	-	National Development Plan
NPCPDS	-	National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support
OVG	-	Office of The Valuer – General
PESI	-	Presidential Employment Stimulus Initiative
PLAS	-	Priority Land Acquisition Strategy
POA	-	Program of Action
PVA	-	Property Valuation Act
RLTRCA	-	Recordal of Land Tenure Rights in Communal Areas
SADT	-	South African Development Trust
SANRAL	-	South African National Roads Agency
SLAG	-	Settlement and Land Acquisition Grant
SONA	-	State of Nation Address
TRANCRAA	-	Transformation of Certain Rural Areas Act
WSIP	-	Water Services Improvement Plan

