OPERATION PHAKISA: AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND LAND REFORM

KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

President Jacob Zuma will on 24 February 2017 launch the Operation Phakisa for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The broad aim of the Operation Phakisa is to stimulate growth, foster job creation and instil transformation along the agriculture and rural development value chain.

Operation Phakisa is derived from Malaysia’s Big Fast Results Methodology which that country used successfully to achieve rapid economic transformation. It was introduced in South Africa two years ago to improve performance in various sectors.

It is an initiative designed to fast track the implementation of solutions on critical delivery issues highlighted in the National Development Plan (NDP) and also forms part of our Nine Point Plan to reignite growth and boost job creation. Since then, Operation Phakisa has been launched focussing in various sectors such as oceans economy and mining.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDHL) recently competed a six month consultation process to finalise the objectives for the five week Operation Phakisa Lab. The Lab participants finalised twenty-seven (27) initiatives across seven work streams, namely:

- Land reform,
- Rural development,
- Labour,
- Grains,
- Livestock,
- Horticulture, and
- Producer support.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY MESSAGES</th>
<th>SUPPORTING STATEMENTS</th>
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</table>
| **Operation Phakisa is a strong thrust to meet government's targets.**       | • Operation Phakisa presents government with a platform to plan together with society as a whole, including private sector, labour, civil society and academia.  
  • It creates a platform to gain consensus around addressing pressing challenges in the agricultural sector, as well as generating solutions.  
  • The collaboration process that brings key stakeholders together to plan, explore all possibilities and further unlock the potential of our agriculture is called laboratories (labs).  
  • The outcome of the labs translate into detailed plans with ambitious targets as well as public commitment on their implementation. |
| **We have completed the consultative process for the Operation Phakisa for Agriculture.** | • Operation Phakisa involves three phases, the pre-laboratory preparation phase, laboratory phase and the post laboratory phase.  
  • Government recently completed the second phase, which is a six month consultative process to finalise the objectives for the Operation Phakisa Lab.  
  • The 27 initiatives emanating from the Lab has the potential to turn the sector marred by sluggish growth and job losses around.  
  • We are now moving into the last phase, which is implementation and where required the modification of the plans and monitoring, reporting and evaluation.  
  • The District Land Reform Delivery Centres will ensure land reform initiatives are designed and implemented in accordance with the specific needs of local economic plans. |
| **Operation Phakisa aims to transform agriculture for inclusive economic growth.** | • Operation Phakisa aims to stimulate economic growth, foster job creation, and transform the agricultural value chain.  
  • The broad aim of the Operation Phakisa for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is to place agriculture as the engine of social and economic growth.  
  • This is in line with the NDP that outlines the role agriculture and agro-processing sectors ought to play in the revitalisation of the rural economy.  
  • The NDP states that rural economies will be activated through the stimulation of small-scale agriculture. |
| **Operation Phakisa aims to stimulate rural economies.**                     | • Operation Phakisa seeks to ensure equitable access to land, both towards economic development and agrarian transformation.  
  • Growth must be inclusive and benefit all South Africans through increased job opportunities, food safety and affordability.  
  • It also aims to identify profitable markets and improve market access for commercial and small-scale producers.  
  • It seeks to reduce negative environmental impact of agricultural production through interventions to improve soil fertility, water management and pest control.  
  • It aims to strengthen and revitalise agriculture and agro-processing value chain. |
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| **Operation Phakisa highlights government’s determination to deliver on the goals set in the NDP.** | • The National Development Plan indicates that the agricultural sector has the potential to expand by one million hectares and create one million jobs by 2030.  
• To achieve this, the NDP primarily focuses on improving production to achieve sustainability in smallholder and commercial farming.  
• Government will acquire agricultural land to promote smallholder production of high value agricultural land within 10 km to 60 km of rural service areas, rural towns and peri urban areas across South Africa.  
• As government we will also continue to provide technical, infrastructural and financial support to smallholder farmers and speed up land reform.  
• We are also working hard to eliminate human rights violations towards Agri-farm workers and farm dwellers. |
| **Government remains committed to reversing the legacy of the Natives Land Act through the Constitution and the law.** | • Government remains committed to reversing the legacy of the Natives Land Act through the Constitution and the law.  
• Land restitution is about restoring dignity, reversing the legacy of apartheid and empowering those who are landless.  
• The restitution programme has provided redress to a large number of victims of land dispossession who lodged claims by 31 December 1998.  
• We are prioritising through the Fast Track Settlement of Outstanding Restitution Claims the 7419 outstanding claims.  
• We are confident that the remaining backlog will be eradicated within the next two to three years as additional resources have been allocated to the process. |
| **Livestock, Horticulture, and Grains are being prioritised.** | • Government has established the Trade Promotion, Retention and Optimisation initiative aimed at increasing South Africa’s Horticultural trade potential.  
• The initiative aims to increase the country’s horticultural trade from an estimated R54.4 billion in 2015 to R90 billion by 2030.  
• Government has also established a private public partnership to address the impact grant-based financial models are having on growth in the grain industry.  
• This private public partnership will also link farmers to buyers and processors of grain using contractual innovations which mitigate the risks for both parties. |