

Minister Nhleko hand over letters to Hereford Farmers in TafelKop to more than 30 farmers.

By Tshuluzi Nkoana

More than 30 emerging Black Farmers in Hereford Tafelkop, Limpopo, have been handed letters of intent to grant property rights by Minister of Public Works Hon Nkosinathi Nhleko, MP.

Four pieces of land, amounting to 220 hectares has been subdivided into farming plots. The beneficiaries of the land will use the properties for agricultural purposes, aimed at not just alleviating poverty for their immediate families but also to be active in the agricultural economy of the country.

In the past, the property was acquired by the apartheid government for former White Soldiers who fought in the Second World War and came back around 1950/51.

The land was vacated by the white farmers after land reform legislation was implemented by the new democratic government.

Black farmers, who had been White farmer workers, saw an opportunity to use the land and continue with farming. Former Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Derek Hanekom, gave an instruction to the department to facilitate the transfer of the farms to the black farmers through the land reform programme.

This process had many challenges, which led to the Black farmers to struggle to receive formalised documentation from the State.

This struggle continued for 20 years, with the farmers not receiving formalised documentation from the state.

Through all their struggles, Hereford farmers did not give up, they continue farming and winning a number of consecutive Farmers of the year Awards.

Limpopo Agriculture MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana, who was also at the event, pledged her support to the farmers and committed the department to providing the farmers with proper fencing, farming machinery and water boreholes for irrigation. She also committed that her Department will provide farmers with the necessary support they require.