

Didiza's vision for agriculture

THE Thuma Mina slogan found resonance in (Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development) Minister Thoko Didiza's Budget vote speech.

She spoke of agriculture as a sector that has the potential to contribute to the economy as well as sprucing up job creation.

The minister tabled the following:

- ◆ The recruitment of vets and animal health specialists.
- ◆ The upgrading of existing facilities to produce livestock vaccination that is in line with the international standards.
- ◆ The regularisation of CPAs to comply with the Communal Property Association Act.
- ◆ Streamlining agricultural finance by aligning the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme from the Department of Agriculture with relevant programmes from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.
- ◆ Revitalisation of land that was acquired through restitution of land rights.
- ◆ Development of a deliberate strategy to enable youth and women to enter the agricultural sector.
- ◆ Collaborating with Statistics SA to develop a farmer register that will indicate how many producers we have in the country to ensure targeted support to farmers.
- ◆ Reviewing the process of land acquisition and allocation.
- ◆ Revitalisation of the Agri-parks programme.
- ◆ Resolving outstanding labour relations.
- ◆ Engaging the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to improve office infrastructure of the department. Kudos!

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