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Author: Andile Sithole

Agri minister backs women-led community garden

Project grows hope

Andile Sithole

POVERTY alleviation is a top priority for the new Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, who is focused on empowering unemployed communities to create jobs.

During a recent visit to The Bluff, Steenhuisen met with emerging farmers from the Tara Road Community Garden, a women-led initiative dedicated to job creation and self-sufficiency.

To support this initiative, Steenhuisen donated a JoJo water tank and essential gardening equipment. The Tara Road Community Garden aims to combat unemployment and provide fresh produce to the local community, addressing the widespread issue of food insecurity in South Africa, where millions face hunger daily.

Steenhuisen was accompanied by a notable delegation, including provincial chairperson Dean Macpherson MP, DA national spokesperson Karabo Khakhau MP, deputy speaker in the KZN Legislature Mmabatho Tembe, Durban Central Constituency head Dianne Kohler Barnard MP, and ward 66 councillor Zoë Solomon. During the visit, he emphasised the importance of community-driven projects like this one.

"There is no more profound contribution that a community member can make in a country where millions go to bed hungry every day," Steenhuisen stated. He further pledged continued support by announcing the donation of a second JoJo water tank, along with essential tools and trays of seedlings for the garden.

The visit was part of Women's Month celebrations, a time dedicated to recognising the



Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen, along with one of the members of the Tara Road Community Garden, pastor Rodgers Sechaba Mosala plant cabbages in the garden. **PHOTO: Supplied.**

crucial role women play in their communities. Steenhuisen praised the women leading the garden for their initiative, highlighting the positive impact it will have on job creation and local economic

development.

The Tara Road Community Garden now stands as a testament to the power of community action and the pivotal role of women in shaping a better future.

Co-founder, Liziwe Mkhulisi, expressed her gratitude for the support, noting that the donation will significantly help them achieve their goals and continue feeding many in the community.