

TO: **Hon. Parks Tau**  
MEC for Economic, Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development  
Matlotlo House, 124 Main Street  
Johannesburg, Marshalltown, 2107

CC: Ms Matilda Gasela  
HOD for Agriculture and Rural Development

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS EMANATING FROM THE RESEARCH ANALYSIS ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE 2020/21 FY AND BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE 2021/22 FY.**

DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear MEC Tau

The Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee requests the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to respond to questions emanating from the research analysis on the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report for the 2020/21 FY and Budget Allocation for the 2021/22 FY.

**Questions should be submitted to the Committee on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. If is further requested that the questions be comprehensively presented to the Committee at the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021):**

**QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

### **2021/22 FY Budget Questions**

**1. Conditional Grants**

1.1 How many work opportunities does the GDARD hope to realise with this grants budget in the current FY? How will these compare with last FYs opportunities?

**2. Revenue Generated**

2.1 How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on the revenue collection in the 2020/21 FY on a year-on-year basis?

**3. Percentage (%) Share of Programmes: 2020/21 – 2022/23 FYs**

3.1 With the positive economic growth the sector demonstrated in the last FY, even as the country was battling low economic activity owing to the lockdown levels imposed to stem the spread of the pandemic, how does the GDARD envisage continued economic activity to contribute towards the growth of the economy of province?

3.2 What different strategy does the GDARD plan to adopt in the current financial year to ensure that monies allocated to ensure that the department spends its entire budget?

**4. Percentage share of Programmes: 2020/21 – 2022/23 FY**

4.1 The projections for the programmes depict that both the Agriculture and Rural Development as well as Environmental Affairs programmes will get lower increments over the next financial year of 3,1% and 13,3% respectively compared to the previous FY. With the laudable contribution that agriculture is reported to have made towards the economy of the country in 2020, what motivated these increment levels?

**5. Summary of Economic Classification: 2020/21 - 2022/23 FYs**

- 5.1 Could the GDARD explain if the provision of budgets for provinces and municipalities is being phased out?

**6. Transfers to Local Government**

- 6.1 Will the GDARD no longer provide funding for any environmental management projects to municipalities?

**7. Sustainable Resource Management**

- 7.1 Could the GDARD indicate how their envisaged EPWP work opportunities to be created in this FY will look given the high unemployment levels brought upon us by the pandemic?

**8. Farmer Support and Development**

- 8.1 With various studies intimating an increase in food insecurity in Gauteng, how has the GDARD geared its services for the current FY to help in tackling this challenge?
- 8.2 Given the threat on food security brought about by the covid pandemic, why have the targets that relate to optimising food security not reached the same target levels as set for the previous FY?

**9. Veterinary Services**

- 9.1 Could the GDARD provide some background information on the existence of the Chamdor abattoir, when it was established, what it was meant for, who it was meant to service, how it would be managed and confirm if it has been auctioned or not.
- 9.2 Could the GDARD further provide an explanation on the status of Avian flu in the province and further explain why there was an outbreak on the same farm where the outbreak happened in 2019 in Ekurhuleni as well as explain how the outbreak in the Tshwane District came about. On hindsight, could more have been done on the Ekurhuleni site to thwart the recent outbreak?
- 9.3 Could the GDARD provide an update on the status of African Swine Fever in the province and explain what training is afforded informal pig producers to help them in the management of their drove.
- 9.4 What is the GDARDs strategic plan on the control of disease that would have been brought in the province by animals exported from neighbouring provinces?

**10. Agricultural Economics Services**

- 10.1 With various discussions going on currently on the possibility of cannabis value adding, what plans if any, is the GDARD contemplating for agro-processing beneficiaries in this regard?
- 10.2 Has the GDARD linked any of their pig and poultry producers to formal markets? A vegetable farmer at the Soshanguve Agripark has been stood up by a buyer who reneged on her promise to take the fancy lettuce produce from the farmer once mature. What help does the GDARD afford smallholder producers with accessing markets? Is there anyway the GDARD can help these farmers with finding a market outlet for these farmers?
- 10.3 How does the GDARD further respond to a Sunday Times report (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021) relating to tunnels in the West Rand that have been left under-developed for a very long time without completion?

**11. Programme 3: Environmental Affairs**

- 11.1 The Environmental Quality Management sub-programme has had its budget reduced 44,6% in the current year. This is disconcerting given how bad the environment in the province is with water courses polluted with plastic bags, waste strewn on streets and illegal dumps mushrooming regularly. With the budget cut of such magnitude for this sub-programme, how does the GDARD envisage attaining the Outcome Oriented goal it strives towards of ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources in the province?

## **11.2 Environmental Policy Planning and Coordination APPs:**

- 11.2.1 Could the GDARD explain what the Kaalspruit Management Catchment Plan entails and how it is envisaged to help the people of Gauteng.

## **11.3 Environmental Quality Management: APPs:**

### **11.3.1 What motivated this downward revision of the concerned APPs in the previous FY?**

- 11.3.2 With recent reports in the news that intimated on waste food quantities the country generates that end up in landfills yet could have been diverted, how does the GDARD plan to engage with value chain role players involved to help in diverting more waste food to reduce the quantities that end up in landfills?
- 11.3.3 Further reports have suggested the introduction of a separation at source charge by Municipalities. Whilst this is a necessary initiative, it makes no mention of involving informal waste collectors who have contributed so much in the prolonging the lifespan of our province's landfills.
- 11.3.4 What is the status on the provision of alternate energy strategy to provide long term energy security for the province?
- 11.3.5 What became of the project that involved the distribution of gas stoves to some households in the province as an alternate source for energy?
- 11.3.6 What are the names of the people that received such gas stoves?
- 11.3.7 What plans are in place to ensure the participation of this stakeholder in the waste value chain?

## **Quarter 4 Report Questions – 2020/21 FY**

### **1. Administration Programme**

- 1.1 as in the previous quarter, the GDARD could not meet the target of the number of businesses owned by Youth and scored 3,79% against a target of 20% for the quarter. Given that this was raised as a concern in the last quarter and the GDARD intimated on collaborating with DSD and DED, what results did this collaboration yield?
- 1.2 as in the previous quarter, the GDARD could not meet the target of the number of businesses owned by People with Disabilities (PwDs) netting 0,42% against a target of 5%. Given that this was raised as a concern in the last quarter, what corrective measures did the GDARD embark on, to try and address this shortfall?
- 1.3 as in last quarter, the GDARD could not meet the target of the percentage increase in township spend and could only spend 33% against a target of 40% for the quarter. Given that this was raised as a concern in the last quarter, what corrective measures did the GDARD embark on, to try and address this shortfall?

### **2. Agriculture and Rural Development Programme**

#### **2.1 Sustainable Resource Management**

- 2.1.1 As in the previous quarter, could not meet the target for rehabilitation of agricultural land and managed 46 ha against a target of 800 ha for the quarter because the approval of Land Care Conditional Grants by DALLRD was delayed. Given that this was raised as a concern in the last quarter, what corrective measures did the GDARD embark on, to try and address this shortfall?

#### **2.2 Farmer Support and Development**

- 2.2.1 Could not meet the target set for number of hectares planted for food production and attained 600 against a target of 1 300 for the quarter, but, the annual target is said to have already been met. What is the estimated grain acreage planted to GDARD supported farms in the current season?
- 2.2.2 Exceeded the quarter target for smallholder farmers commercialized and attained 16 against a target of 10 for the quarter. Could the GDARD provide a list of the 16 commercialized farmers, contact details, farm names and GPS points of the farms.

- 2.2.3 Have to be commended with supporting 7 community food gardens and exceeding the quarter target set a 6. What is the GDARD's sense of the extent to which these community food gardens will help in addressing food insecurity in the province?

## **2.3 Veterinary Services**

- 2.3.1 Exceeded the quarter target and attended 8 186 cases at the Themba Animal Clinic against a target of 1 475 for the quarter. How is the prevalence of African Swine Fever in the province following the recent outbreak in the province?
- 2.3.2 Exceeded the quarter target of average percentage compliance of operating abattoirs and scored 91% against a target of 85%. What was the plan behind the eventual takeover of the Chamdor abattoir? Who was meant to assume responsibility for that and what training were they provided with to equip them with the necessary skills to ensure success of the project?

## **2.4 Research and Technology Development**

- 2.4.1 Could not achieve the target of 1 for the quarter for the establishment of an agri-park due to the PIR not being approved by the Provincial Treasury. Why are there still problems with meeting Treasury's requirements when there is already an IDU structure set up precisely to ensure conformation to Treasury requirements?

## **2.5 Agroprocessing and Agricultural Economics Services**

- 2.5.1 Exceeded the target set at 100 for agribusinesses supported with production economic services and supported 127. What training is provided farmers to ensure that marketing deals they get into on their own, are sound? A vegetable farmer at the Soshanguve Agri-park was hoodwinked into producing fancy lettuce by a would-be market outlet who then reneged on their promise and the farmer has been left in a lurch with no plan on how to get rid of the produce.

## **2.6 Rural Development**

- 2.6.1 Did not provide any training to Council Stakeholders because the target was met in quarter 3. How does the Rural Development Plan hope to enhance job creation in rural nodes of the province? With the number of unemployment figures increasing as a result of the lockdown levels, what opportunities are being planned for rural Gauteng nodes?

## **3. Environmental Affairs**

### **3.1 Biodiversity Management, Compliance and Enforcement**

- 3.1.1 The GDARD has to be commended for issuing 36 enforcement notices for the quarter against a target of 19. What is the compliance rate for the 2020/21 FY for all the people that have been served enforcement notices?

### **3.2 Air Quality Management**

- 3.2.1 The GDARD could not meet the quarter target for percentage of facilities that are supposed to report emissions to GDARD and fared 89% against a target of 100% for the quarter. What consequences are there for entities that do not report on their emission levels?

### **3.3 Environmental Capacity Development and Support**

- 3.3.1 The GDARD could only create 1 475 work opportunities through environmental programmes against a target of 2 300. The reason provided is that EPWP projects were suspended on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Given that the directive to suspend was issued with only 4 days left in the month, why is there such a huge discrepancy between the target and actual achievement?

## **4. ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

### **4.1 Budget Expenditure: January to March**

- 4.1.1 With the dire economic crisis, the country is faced with and huge unemployment reported as well as increasing food insecurity in the province, what are the reasons that led to the GDARD under-utilizing so much of the Agriculture Programme budget.

## **5. Departmental Capital Projects**

**Could the GDARD quantify the work that needs to be done for the following projects:**

- Diepkloof farm: Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve -length and height

- Installation of boreholes and irrigation systems
- Construction of new poultry structures (5 000 capacity)
- Construction of new poultry structures (40 000 capacity)
- Installation of solar water pumping system for borehole

Should you require further clarity regarding the requests by the Committee, please contact the Committee Chairperson Hon Lindiwe Lasindwa on [llasindwa@gpl.gov.za](mailto:llasindwa@gpl.gov.za) or 082 419 3937.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindiwe', written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Lindiwe Lasindwa

Chairperson: Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee  
Gauteng Provincial Legislature