



**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**  
**Democratic Alliance Member of the Provincial Legislature**  
The Hon. Retief Odendaal, MPL.



**Provincial Legislature**

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**HON METH MPL**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**MEC RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM**

Dear Mec Meth,

**RE: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PROMISED DROUGHT AID TO FARMERS?**

The aforementioned matter has reference.

It is now nearly a month after your department has announced that an amount of R74 million would be made available in drought aid to farmers. The committee for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform was at that time advised that an amount of R33.8 million of said funding would be made available immediately and that the remainder would be availed after the Adjustments Appropriation was passed by the house.

Unfortunately, to date, it would seem as if DRDAR has made little to no progress with the distribution of drought assistance in the form of fodder to any of the districts in question. I have made contact with various role players in the agricultural industry within those districts that have been declared a disaster and they also seem to be in the dark as to progress by your department in this regards.

Furthermore, last week Thursday the house has passed the Adjustments Appropriation and as such the entire R74 Million should now be available for distribution.

Since the announcement regarding the immediate availability of drought aid to farmers, farming conditions in the Eastern Cape have actually further deteriorated. As such, any further delay in the distribution of this support to our farmers could have disastrous consequences for all concerned.

I also refer you to the Government Notice in the Government Gazette of the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 which amongst others have put in place a **national ban** on all livestock auctions of cloven-hoofed animals as a result of the recent outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in Limpopo. You can imagine that this recent turn of events is putting even more strain on our distressed farmers.

Against this backdrop could you kindly provide me with advices as to the following?

- 1) What is the current status of the procurement processes with regards to drought aid?
- 2) Has any drought aid been made available to farmers?
  - 2.1) If so, how much drought has been made available and to which district have same been distributed?
  - 2.2) If so, what was the value of the feed distributed so far?

2.3) If so, when will the aforementioned process be completed?

2.4) If not, when is the process of distribution of Drought Aid likely to start?

I trust you will respond to me speedily in this regard.

Regards,

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

**Retief Odendaal, MPL**

**FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.**