



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Hon Christopher Pappas MPL- Democratic Alliance

DA Spokesperson: Agriculture and Rural Development

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22nd October 2019

Dear Mr Magagula

I hope that this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you in relation to the continued downward trajectory of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal.

The recent SCOPA hearings into the the 2018/2019 annual report as well as the auditor generals feedback indicates the urgent need for more drastic action to be taken in order to rescue this department and deliver on essential national standards.

Year on year the department has reported back on its poor performance and assured the committee that there are imminent turn around plans and strategies in place. In addition to this the both the Auditor General and the Annual Report indicate poor consequence management as a contributing factor to the largely dysfunctional department.

The AG's report as well as the Annual Report 2018/2019 reveal the following, amongst others:

- 1) qualified audit opinion (with findings) for at least the 3rd year in a row
- 2) frequent contravention of supply chain procedures without consequence
- 3) irregular expenditure of R715 million
- 4) underspending of budget by R264 million
- 5) underperformance of entities (Mjindi Farming & ADA)
- 6) lack of evidence to support the reports that were submitted to the Auditor General
- 7) failure to implement consequence management mechanism
- 8) serious vacancies at all levels including acting senior management (264 funded vacancies, 1251 unfunded but approved vacancies)
- 9) critical state of infrastructure

The Department is the custodian of serious mandates such as rural development, food security, agricultural biosecurity, animal health, protection of agricultural resources, land titles, water services, fertilisers, feeds, land reform and a number of other competencies. Failure to run the department has a direct impact on the items listed above a number of others.

These failures have been reported on for a period of time and require urgent attention because it has become apparent that very little has been done to turn the department around.

Therefore, in response to the above I request that Treasury urgently consider writing to its national counterparts supporting the call for the National Executive to intervene in terms of section 100 (b) of the constitution of the Republic.

Section 100(b) provides for the National Executive to intervene where a Province cannot or does not fulfil an executive obligation in terms of the constitution or legislation. The National Executive may take appropriate steps to ensure the fulfilment of constitutional or legislative obligations. In this regard, I am of the firm belief that the financial and administrative mismanagement in the department warrants a national response. Furthermore, failure by the department is impacting on the responsibilities of the department: contained in the legislative mandates as set out on pages 18, 19, and 20 of the annual report 2018/2019.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Pappas', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Pappas MPL
B. Town and Regional Planning
DA Spokesperson on Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal