



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Hon Christopher Pappas MPL- Democratic Alliance**DA Spokesperson: Agriculture and Rural Development**

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PappasC@mpl.org.za**14th February 2020****Dear Hon. Sibhidla Saphetha**

I hope that this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you following the dismal presentation given by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at a follow up SCOP meeting held on the 12th February 2020.

At the meeting there was an unanimous decision by the SCOPA committee to agree to a DA proposal to reject the report presented by the Department in its entirety. The report was subsequently withdrawn by the Department.

Agriculture, and the development it brings to rural communities, cannot be taken lightly in a Province with as many challenges as KwaZulu-Natal. In turn, the Department responsible for executing governments mandate on agriculture and rural development must operate in an effective and efficient manner. You have repeatedly mentioned this in various speeches.

It is quite clear that the department is under severe distress and requires bolder actions to rid it of some of its endemic problems. I would therefore like to submit that:

- 1) The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provide a report and presentation on all forensic investigations that have taken place since 2010.
- 2) That a full turn around strategy for the Department be presented to the committee before the end of March.
- 3) That the committee meet every two weeks to get an update on the implementation of the turn around strategy.
- 4) That the committee recommend a skills audit of all departmental officials
- 5) That the committee recommend life style audits for all senior managers and the executive of the Department.

We require decisive leadership and a capable government to address the issues of high unemployment, inequality and poverty. I implore you to take these bold steps to turn this vital Department around.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Christopher Pappas MPL
B. Town and Regional Planning
Member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee