



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE
Member of the Provincial Legislature

Heinrich Muller, MPL
(Democratic Alliance Spokesperson on DSRAC & DRDAR)



Provincial Legislature
Private Bag x0051 or
Independence Ave
Bhisho, 5605

mullerheinrich.mh@gmail.com

Tel: -
Fax: -
Cell: 083 648 1916
e-mail:

30 July 2024

Hon. Minister John Steenhuisen
Minister for Agriculture
National Assembly of South Africa

Dear Minister Steenhuisen

RE: REQUEST FOR URGENT INTERVENTION CONCERNING THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE MANTUSINI DAIRY PROJECT IN PORT ST JOHNS, EASTERN CAPE

I am writing to your office to seek your urgent intervention with respect to the total collapse of the Mantusini Dairy Project in Port St Johns, Eastern Cape.

The community of Mantusini Village close to Port St Johns is at its wits' end with this ongoing failed project of the previous National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

The failed R43 million "state-of-the-art" Dairy Farm Project that was intended to uplift the community, has only led to frustration, heartache and anger for the people of Mantusini as they had to make their land, previously utilised for subsistence farming, available for the project.

The project was launched in the Eastern Cape in 2014 and was supposed to benefit 500 individual households under communal tenure with a farm that is self-sustainable. Poor planning and lack of oversight and support from Government, sadly turned this multi-million-rand project into another disaster.

Over the last 10 years the community tried their best to ensure that the Dairy Farm is successful, but were faced with numerous obstacles including the disconnection of their electricity due to non-payment, the non-availability of mowers or bailers leading to an inability to stockpile feed for cattle, and a lack of dip to treat the cattle against ticks and other parasites.

On the 24th of July 2024, at the Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Portfolio Committee meeting, we dealt with the 6th term Hand Over Report and the following shocking information was shared with us:

The Mantusini Dairy Project is currently closed, and it is alleged that the livestock was taken away by the Department.

This project was to alleviate poverty and create job opportunities for the local community, but the previous Government failed the people of Mantusini.

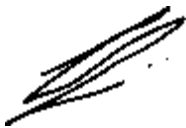
I hereby request your office to:

- Investigate the above project to establish why the Mantusini Dairy Farm has been closed.
- Investigate why this multi-million rand project failed.
- Hold those who are responsible for the failure to account.
- Investigate the possibility of implementing another project to assist and uplift the community of Mantusini.

Your assistance with the aforesaid will be appreciated.

“Let’s Grow Together”

Yours sincerely,



HEINRICH MULLER, MPL

Shadow MEC of Sports, Recreation, Arts & Culture
Shadow MEC of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform
Constituency Head: Eastern Cape Midlands