



**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**  
Member of the Provincial Legislature

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**NOTICE OF MOTION IN TERMS OF RULE 131 OF THE STANDING RULES OF  
ORDER OF THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

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I hereby give notice in terms of Rule 131 of the Standing Rules of Order of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature that this House:

**NOTING THAT:**

1. On 5 February 2026, severe storms with tornado-like winds and hail ripped through the Langkloof, one of the most productive agricultural regions in the Eastern Cape, devastating fruit orchards (primarily apples and pears), ripping roofs from buildings, uprooting trees, and stripping tons of fruit from trees across areas including Joubertina, Noll, Tweerivier, Krakeel, Louvain, Molenrivier, and surrounding farms, with reported crop losses of approximately 12-17%.
2. This disaster compounds ongoing drought pressures and places orchards, farming businesses, jobs, packhouses, transporters, and entire rural communities under immense strain.
3. Officials from the Department of Agriculture conducted a visit to the affected areas, but their engagement was limited to a narrow group of subsistence farmers, while commercial farmers, who form a critical part of the agricultural economy, were entirely excluded.
4. A damage assessment report has been compiled, yet it has not been tabled in this House, properly communicated, or translated into any clear plan of action, leaving farmers on the ground without answers.
5. Despite repeated calls from the Democratic Alliance for the incident to be declared a provincial state of disaster, the MEC and the Department have to date provided no clarity, no declaration, and no comprehensive response.

**FURTHER NOTING THAT:**

6. A fragmented and incomplete response that ignores commercial farmers fails to grasp the full scale of the crisis and undermines the entire agricultural ecosystem in the Langkloof, where losses to commercial operations directly threaten livelihoods of workers and rural communities.
7. Allowing a compiled damage report to gather dust does not restore a single orchard, save a single job, or rebuild confidence in a sector already facing rising input costs, uncertain markets, and climate shocks.
8. At a time when farmers need coordination, communication, and urgency, silence, selective engagement, and a lack of decisive action are unacceptable and risk compounding the devastation.
9. Disaster response must be inclusive, transparent, and comprehensive; every affected farmer, subsistence or commercial, matters, and every job in the value chain matters.

**THEREFORE, THIS HOUSE RESOLVES TO:**

- A. Request that the MEC for Agriculture urgently table the full damage assessment report in this House and make it publicly available.
- B. Request that the Department immediately return to the Langkloof to conduct a comprehensive assessment that engages all affected stakeholders, including commercial farmers who were previously excluded.
- C. Request that the Premier, after consultation with the relevant MECs and on the recommendation of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, urgently declare the incident a provincial state of disaster in terms of section 41 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and provide a clear, actionable support framework and relief plan for affected farmers, including crop restoration, financial assistance, and job protection measures.
- D. Request that the Department of Agriculture ensure no farmer is left behind due to selective or incomplete engagement, and that continuity of operations, stability for rural communities, and the best interests of the agricultural sector remain paramount.

I so move.



**HEINRICH MULLER, MPL**

**Shadow MEC of Agriculture  
Constituency Head: Eastern Cape Midlands**