



OFFICE OF THE MEC

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TO : OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FROM : MEC FOR AGRICULTURE
SUBJECT : RESPONSES TO IQP NO 54 WITH QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1669. Mr H Müller to ask the MEC responsible for Agriculture:

<p>(1) Whether her Department has conducted or commissioned a formal agricultural damage assessment in the Langkloof region following the storm event; if so, can she kindly provide (a) the date of the assessment,</p> <p>(b) the areas surveyed, and</p> <p>(c) preliminary estimates of crop and infrastructure losses;</p>	<p>The hailstorm and strong wind occurred on Saturday (7th of February 2026). The official telephonically engaged with farmers to ascertain whether they were affected by the hailstorm. Those affected did indicate, however; the official discovered during project visits that there were some other farmers who were also affected but did not indicate as such. The hailstorm damage assessment was conducted as follows:</p> <p>(a) Suurberg Lindoor Family Farming and Leeuw Boerdery Trust was assessed on 19th of February 2026.— Tulpieskraal Workers Trust on 24th of February 2026.</p> <p>(b) The hail affected Krakeel and Joubertina areas.</p> <p>(c) Extent of the damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tulpieskraal Workers Trust (DC Fruits) – A total of 4.3 ha was affected by hailstorm and strong winds. Out of the 4.3 ha, 2ha affected was for pears (packams cultivar) with 63 bins went for juice factory and 2.3ha for pear forelle cultivar with 113 bins went for Juice Factory. ▪ Suurberg Lindoor Family Farming (Veg): 1ha of crops planted affected, these included: pumpkins, tomato & green peppers.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leeuw Boerdery Trust: On this farm, a total of 0.5ha of tomatoes planted were affected. ▪ It can be reported that in all the farms visited, there was no infrastructural damage was detected.
(2) what disaster relief or agricultural support mechanisms has her Department activated or considered with a view to assisting affected farmers, including (a) input support, (b) infrastructure repair assistance, (c) crop replacement relief and (d) financial aid measures;	<p>Following the preliminary assessment done by the District, the Departmental Disaster Officers (based at Head Office) will conduct an in-depth assessment of the floods in these farms that will inform the type of disaster relief that is required.</p> <p>This assessment will be done on the 05th and 06th March 2026.</p>
(3) whether her Department has engaged the Provincial Disaster Management structures to determine whether the event qualifies for disaster classification or relief funding; if so, what is the status of such engagements;	<p>The Department has informed the Provincial Disaster Management Centre about the incident and informed them that it will conduct a thorough assessment and share its finding for guidance and support.</p>
(4) whether any emergency funding has been ring-fenced or reprioritised to respond to this storm damage; if so, (a) what total amount has been set aside in this regard and (b) how it will be allocated;	<p>The emergency funding (2% disaster allocation) of the Department were depleted by interventions that addressed the June 2025 floods and the Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak. Therefore once the report is finalized the Department will explore options of emergency funding with Provincial Treasury.</p>
(5) what time-frames have been set for the roll-out of relief interventions to affected farmers, particularly in light of the compounding pressures of climate change in the Langkloof region?	<p>As soon as relief funding is received, hailstorm nets will be procured for the farms.</p> <p>The Land care management unit of the Department is continually supporting the farms with soil and water conservation techniques.</p>

MR B. DAYIMAN
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE