



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Member of the Provincial Legislature

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To: Hon MEC Nonceba Kotsiwe
MEC for Agriculture
Eastern Cape Provincial Government

Dear MEC Kotsiwe

RE: REQUEST FOR CLARITY ON AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF FOLLOWING NATIONAL DISASTER CLASSIFICATION

The above matter refers.

Following the recent severe flooding and extreme weather events affecting several provinces, including the Eastern Cape, these events have now been classified as a national disaster under the Disaster Management Act.

In light of this classification, I write to request urgent clarity on what steps the Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture has taken, or intends to take, to ensure that affected farmers in the province are included in any disaster relief and recovery funding process.

Information received from farmers, residents, and agricultural stakeholders indicates that extensive damage has been suffered in key agricultural areas, including the Gamtoos River Valley and parts of the Langkloof, with specific concerns raised in areas such as Louterwater and Krakeel. These areas are raised as examples of affected farming communities, but the Department's response must not be limited to them.

Reports indicate damage to farming operations, irrigation infrastructure, access roads, lands, and agricultural production. Concerns have also been raised regarding water infrastructure, livestock losses, crop destruction, and the interruption of farming activities.

Given the strategic agricultural importance of these areas to the Eastern Cape economy, rural employment, and food production systems, it is essential that the

Department acts swiftly to ensure that agricultural losses across the province are properly assessed, verified, costed, and submitted through the relevant disaster management and Treasury processes.

In this regard, I request that your Department provide clarity on the following:

1. Has the Department formally engaged the Provincial Disaster Management Centre following the national disaster classification, and has a provincial agricultural disaster response process been activated?
2. Have verified farm-level damage assessments commenced across all affected agricultural areas, including commercial, emerging, smallholder, and subsistence farmers?
3. Is the Department compiling a costed agricultural damage register and the required supporting documentation, including beneficiary estimates, infrastructure-loss details, cash-flow projections, and a business plan, for submission through the relevant disaster management and national funding processes?
4. What immediate interim support, if any, is being made available to affected farmers while the formal assessment, verification, and funding processes are underway?


The national disaster classification must translate into a clear, lawful, and practical response for farmers who have suffered flood-related losses. Affected producers should not be left uncertain about whether their losses are being recorded, whether relief will be requested on their behalf, or what process they must follow to qualify for support.

It is further important that farmers, agricultural stakeholders, and affected rural communities are kept informed regarding the Department's intended interventions, required documentation, assessment process, relief criteria, and anticipated timelines.

Your ongoing cooperation is appreciated, particularly given the urgency of the situation facing affected farmers. I would be grateful for any update your Department is able to provide on progress in this regard, including preliminary assessments undertaken, engagements with disaster management authorities, funding submissions being prepared, and interim support measures being considered.

Your urgent attention to this matter is, as always, very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



HEINRICH MÜLLER, MPL

Shadow MEC of Agriculture
Constituency Head: Eastern Cape Midlands