No.170 - 2022: Fourth Session, Sixth Legislature

**GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS,**

**TABLINGS AND**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**========================**

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

# TABLINGS

none

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. The Chairperson of the Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee, Hon. F Hassan, tabled the Committee’s Oversight Report on the Detail of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Budget Vote 11 of the Provincial Appropriation Bill *[G001-2022]* for the 2022/23 FY, as follows**

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

# Adopted Committee Oversight Report on Budget Vote 11 for the 2022/23 Financial Year: Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Friday, 20th May 2022Table of Contents Page No**

1. Acronyms 3
2. Executive Summary 4

1. Introduction 4 - 5

1. Process Followed 5

1. Overview of Policy Priorities 5 - 6
2. Committee’s Assessment of the Budget Vote 7 - 9
3. Payments and Estimates per Economic Classification 9
4. Assessments per Programme 10 - 12
5. Committee Concerns 13
6. Committee Recommendations 13 - 14
7. Acknowledgements 14
8. Adoption 14

**Acronyms**

ARC Agricultural Research Council

BkB Batho ke Botho

CASP Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme

DID Department of Infrastructure Development

EPWP Expanded Public Works Programme

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

FIS Focused Intervention Study

FY Financial Year

GDARD Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

GPG Gauteng Provincial Government

GPL Gauteng Provincial Legislature

IDC Industrial Development Corporation

IDMS Infrastructure Development Management System

LRAD Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development

MTEF Medium Term Expenditure Framework

MTSF Medium Term Strategic Framework

NDP National Development Plan

NRM Natural Resource Management

PFMA Public Finance Management Act (1999)

PLAS Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy

SOM Sector Oversight Model

SONA State of the Nation Address

SOPA State of the Province Address

The Chairperson of the Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee, Ms Fasiha Hassan, presents the Committee Oversight Report of Budget Vote 11 allocation for the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) of the Provincial Appropriation Bill***,*** as follows:

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2022/23 FY budget follows a period where budget cuts were made over the course of two financial periods as a result of having to reprioritize funds to help in the fight against the covid-19 pandemic that was ravaging the country. The Department’s total allocation for the **2022/23** FY revenue is set at **R1,042 billion** which marks a **-0,2%** reduction from the previous financial year’s adjusted budget of **R1,044 billion.** The Department’s budget decreases from **0.72%** of the previous year’s total provincial budget to **0.68%** in the current financial year. The proportion of compensation towards employees to total budget increased from **52,4%** in the previous to **52,6%** in the current financial year.

The Committee noted that the budget is meant to help in reversing the effects of the Covid-19 on the provincial economy so that economic activity is taken to as close to where it had been prior to the occurrence of the pandemic.

The Department approved a number of projects that will be funded through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Program (CASP) Conditional Grant and also embarked on a number of partnerships with the private sector e.g. Pepsico, Land Bank, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Local Municipalities to ensure continued economic activity in the agricultural sector. The Land Bank and the IDC are processing farmer applications for funding support. The Midvaal municipality has made land available for primary agriculture production and agro processing. There are also 21 Gauteng farmer applications under consideration for funding through the Jobs Fund. It will be important for the sector to contribute towards the lifting of the economy with absorbing people in jobs created especially as it is a work force intensive sector.

The Committee acknowledges the budget allocation for 2022/23 FY and will continue to monitor the performance of the Department on a quarterly basis and over the MTEF period on funded Programmes.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee exercises oversight over the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) herein referred to as the Department. This includes planning, budgeting, financial management and reporting by the Department. In line with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996), the Public Finance Management Act (1999) creates the basis on which oversight by Legislatures should be exercised. It clearly outlines areas of service delivery that should be reported on, including the responsibilities of officials and the role of the Legislature in cases where reports have to be tabled. This report primarily focuses on examining whether the budget allocated to the Department is aligned to key government strategic priorities. Furthermore, the report assesses whether the objectives of the Department correlate with the intended outputs as well as outcomes.

The sixth administration has adopted a ten-pillar programme of radical transformation, modernization, and reindustrialization of Gauteng. The Department of Agriculture and Rural development would respond to five of the programme’s ten pillars;

* Pillar 1: Radical Economic Transformation;
* Pillar 2: Decisive Spatial Transformation;
* Pillar 3: Accelerated Social Transformation;
* Pillar 6: Modernisation of the Economy; and
* Pillar 7: Modernisation of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature’s oversight methodology stipulates that when analysing the budget, the variables of the Sector Oversight Model (SOM) must be considered. Given that SOM variables are interrelated, this means that priorities, inputs (capital and current), outputs and outcomes should be considered.

1. **PROCESS FOLLOWED**

* Vote 11 of the Schedule of the Provincial Appropriation Bill was formally referred by the Speaker to the Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee for consideration and reporting, after tabling by the MEC of Finance.
* On Wednesday, 4th May 2022 the Committee Researcher tabled the research analysis for discussion by the Portfolio Committee.
* On Thursday, 5th May 2022 the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development presented the budget allocation to the Committee.
* On Friday, 13th May 2022; the Portfolio Committee deliberated and adopted the draft oversight report. The report was submitted to the Proceedings Unit for tabling and consideration by the House on Friday, 20th May 2022.

1. **OVERVIEW OF POLICY PRIOTITIES**

**Overview of the Policy Priorities**

The Department’s mandate is informed by national and provincial priorities, which are outlined in the policies of both spheres of government.

**Policy Statement**

1. **National Policy Statements**

The national policy statements are drawn from the President’s State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2022 as well as the National Treasury’s Budget statement. The President of the Republic made mention of master plan frameworks across the sugar and poultry sectors that are aimed at revitalizing the country’s economy through increased investment, improved production, and transformation (SONA, 2022). The country is streamlining the regulatory processes so that the hemp and cannabis sector can thrive like it is in other countries. The recently established Presidential Climate Commission has done work to support a just transition to a sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and low-carbon economy. The government plans to expand access to land to realize efforts to reduce hunger and provide people with meaningful livelihoods. The government is keen on releasing vast tracts of arable land to support millions of thriving small-scale farmers in poultry, livestock, fruit and vegetables (SONA, 2022).

1. **Provincial Policy Statement**

These are drawn from the Premier’s State of the Province Address (SOPA 2022). The SOPA speech mentioned that the provincial government had partnered with the University of Johannesburg to turn the province’s e-waste problem into an economic opportunity and protect the environment. The project aims at training the youth on the recycling of discarded devices and appliances. The provincial government is working in partnership with other industry players and the Agricultural Development Agency to ensure food security and promote urban agriculture in the province. There has further been extensive interaction with the cannabis industry role players to help in identifying opportunities of the industry that can be exploited in Gauteng.

The provincial government wants to further establish a dedicated unit that will help in addressing regulatory and licensing issues, attract investment and facilitate black participation in the sector. The Vaal River SEZ will host several sectors which include amongst others the new Vaal River Smart City, cannabis hub, Green Hydrogen Innovation Hub and agro-logistics. The West Rand Agri-SEZ has been provided a pledge for a R20 billion investment for amongst others solar farms, urban agriculture, and green hydrogen. The provincial government is implementing a range of targeted urban interventions with a focus on enhancing the sustainability of livelihoods, supporting urban agriculture and increasing access to food programmes. The government further realizes the importance of community and school food gardens as well as urban agriculture to address food security (SOPA, 2022).

**5.** **COMMITTEE’S ASSESSMENT OF THE BUDGET VOTE**

## 5.1 OVERALL ASSESSMENT

**5.1.1 Summary of receipts**

The Department is funded from the equitable share (**85,65% of total budget**) and conditional grants (**14,35% of total budget**). The equitable share is the main source of the Department’s revenue and a portion of that is earmarked for agri-industrialisation, urban food production, improved market access, establishment of agri-parks and processing facilities, farmer support and capacitating informal waste recyclers. There has been a slight decrease (-0,2%) in the total revenue for the current FY compared to the previous FYs adjusted budget. The Department’s total allocation for the **2022/23** FY revenue is set at **R1,042 billion** which marks a reduction of R2,445 million from the previous financial years’ adjusted budget, which was **R1,044 billion.** The budget increases to **R1,064 billion** in the **2023/24 FY** making an 2,2% increase in anticipation of *inter alia* the Economic and Recovery Construction Plan.

The **Committee continues to be concerned as the current infrastructure unit will not be able to eradicate the backlog of the construction of various infrastructure projects that could not be embarked upon because of not being able to issue out the necessary tenders.** The Department is furthermore requested to ensure that they expedite the delivery on all capital projects that were not completed on time.

**The Committee noted with concern that the Department has a trend of underutilizing funds largely as a result of not being able to conform fully to the SCM protocols dictated to, by the Infrastructure Development Management System (IDMS). The underutilization is very pronounced in the 2018/19 financial year where the percent expenditure recorded is just over 89%. The expenditure levels in the last two financial years show a great improvement and in fact fall within the required expenditure threshold levels of 100 ± 5%. This threshold level has since been revised to 100 ± 3% as in the 2021/22 financial year.**

**Table 1 -** **Summary of receipts: Agriculture & Rural Development:**

**2021/22 – 2023/24 FY**

Chart, bar chart

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Table 1 above illustrates the appropriations for the Departmental Summary of receipts: Agriculture & Rural Development

There are four (4) types of conditional grants in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the current FY, namely:

* The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme allocation increases from R100 million in 2021/22 to R101 million in 2023/24, in aid of support towards commercialisation of smallholder farmers and to continue with the provision of agricultural support services, such as farmer training and capacity building and production inputs.
* The Ilima/Letsema grant will continue to support primary production through the supply and delivery of broilers and layers and increases from R36.5 million in 2021/22 to R37.2 million in 2023/24.
* The Land Care grant remained constant at R5 million over the 2022 MTEF period, the allocation is for poverty relief and infrastructure development to sustain natural resources. It is the view of the Committee that the budget allocated to the Land Care grant, could be improved to cater for farmers, but in particular, emerging farmers affected by adverse climate conditions.
* Lastly, The Expanded Public Works Programme Grant allocation is allocated R3.3 million in 2022/23 for the EPWP integrated grant to continue empowering communities through the creation of work opportunities and providing training opportunities for EPWP participants.

The Committee noted that the overall grants budget has increased by 3% in the current financial year, but the Land Care Programme grant has a taken considerable cut in the current financial year with the province battling huge unemployment figures and invasive alien invasion on natural resources. The overall 3% increment in the current FY bodes well for employment opportunities – albeit temporary - that have taken a huge strain with the lockdown the country experienced and should help in improving the economy.

**5.1.2 Budget Payments and Estimates per Programme**

In this financial year the Department continues to fund three (3) programmes namely: Administration, Agriculture & Rural Development and Environmental Affairs.

Table 2 below shows the percentage share of programmes from 2021/22 to 2023/24 FY’s. The table indicates that Programme 2, (Agriculture & Rural Development) has consistently received the largest share of the budget and accounts for approximately 46% of the total budget over the last three financial years. The Agriculture and Rural Development Programme receives the largest share of the budget to ensure that the Department adequately fulfils its role of contributing towards economic upliftment of farmers in the province and to ensure food security, infrastructure development, provision of production inputs and the repair of agricultural infrastructure damaged by floods.

The Department reported that they have approved several projects that will be funded through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Program (CASP) Conditional Grant and embarked on a number of partnerships with the private sector e.g., Pepsico, Land Bank, IDC and Local Municipalities to ensure continued economic activity in the agricultural sector. The Land Bank and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) are processing farmer applications for funding support. The Midvaal municipality has made land available for primary agriculture production and agro-processing. There are also 21 Gauteng farmer applications under consideration for funding through the Jobs Fund.

The Committee noted that the projections for the programmes over the current and following Financial Years depict that both the Agriculture and Rural Development as well as Environmental Affairs programmes will get **lower increments over the next financial year of 3,1% and 13,3% respectively compared to the previous financial year**.

**Table 2 - Percentage share of Programmes: 2021/22 – 2023/24 FY** 

Table 2 above illustrates the Departmental Percentage share of Programmes: 2021/22 – 2023/24 FY

**Programme 1: Administration**

The programme was allocated **R271** million during the 2021/22 FY Departmental budget. The budget for the current FY has been revised downward by **3,4%** (**R9,274 million**) of last FYs revised budget.

The Department reported that they revised its APP targets to ensure alignment with targets set on the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Act. Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) is the custodian of BBBEE in the province. They have issued a letter to all GPG departments requesting them to align APP targets to the BBBEE Act. The letter is attached as **Annexure A**. The BBBEE Act requires a target of 0.2 percent expenditure of the budget on entities owned by military veterans. GDARD has set a target of 1%, which is 0.8% above the target required by the BBBEE Act.

The Department further revised its APP targets to ensure alignment with targets set on the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Act. Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) is the custodian of BBBEE in the province. They have issued a letter to all GPG departments requesting them to align APP targets to the BBBEE Act. The letter is attached as **Annexure A**. GDARD has revised the APP target for PwD’s to 7% to comply with the BBBEE Act. GDARD will continue working with the Department of Social Development to implement interventions aimed at increasing expenditure on entities owned by PwD’s.

**Programme 2: Agriculture and Rural Development**

The programme has been allocated **R487,321** million in the 2022/23 financial year which marks a 3,9% increase from the previous financial year. All the sub-programmes posted increments in the budget for the year under review save for the Research and Technology sub-programme. The budget that was trimmed is the infrastructure budget meant for the implementation of an Agri-park.

**Programme 3: Environmental Affairs**

The programme has been allocated **R292,38 million** in the current FY which denotes a decrease of **3,9%** compared to the 2021/22 FY Departmental budget. The budget is projected to increase by **4,5% (R13 million)** in the 2023/24 FY to **R305,5 million**. The sub programme has reprioritised its budget from non-essential items like venues and facilities, catering and to essential items in the Goods and Services budget. In addition, the sub programme would focus on monitoring highly environmentally sensitive areas and activities that have the potential to impact the environment. However, this would not impact the normal monitoring and enforcement work that it has committed to undertake in the current financial year.

**5.1.3** **Payments and Estimates per Economic Classification**

The total budget allocation for the Department increased by **-0,2%** from **R1,044 billion** in 2021/22 FY to **R1,042 billion** in 2022/23 FY. The budget serves to fund amongst other priorities, the various projects meant to maximize the economic potential of the province through ensuring that the previously marginalized communities actively participate in the economy through the establishment of agri-parks, agro-processing facilities as well as to accommodate inflation and related increases in the compensation of employees. The biggest cuts in this FYs budget is machinery and other equipment, payments for capital assets, buildings and other fixed structures, payments for capital assets, households, higher education institutions and transfers and subsidies, transfers to provinces and municipalities is completely devoid of funding.

The Department reported that Payments for capital assets - Budget allocated under machinery and equipment is R14,2 million for acquisition of tractors, trailer, headers for combined harvesters and tools of trade i.e., laptops, projectors, desktops etc. Total budget of R10.6 million is allocated under building and other fixed structures for infrastructure projects such as construction of fence at Abe Bailey Nature Reserve, upgrading of the market for Vereeniging Fresh Produce Market, upgrading of bulk infrastructure at Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, and upgrading of the Rand West Agripark and Tarlton Agripark.

Transfers – A R1,4 million is transferred to Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) in the 2022/23, for capacity and talent management initiatives. There will be transfers of R5,9 million to Higher Education Institutions for research projects in the form of bursaries and internships. The reduction can be attributed to rollover approval of R1,2 million from 2020/21 financial year.

**Transfers to Local Government**

The Committee noted that the Department transferred R5 million in 2017/18 for the establishment and operationalisation of the Isigayo milling plant in the Randfontein area. Furthermore, in the 2018/19 financial year the department transferred R4 million to West Rand District Municipality for the development of an agro processing milling plant. There are no planned transfers to local municipalities in the year under review.

1. **Assessment Per Programme**

**6.1 PROGRAMME 1 : ADMINISTRATION**

The Administration programme consists of four sub-programmes namely, office of the MEC, Senior Management, Cooperate Services and Financial Management. The programme provides service delivery quality, human resource management and development, efficient and effective governance, Business processes.

**Table 3 Administration APPs - Office of The CFO APPs**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Output Indicator** | **MTEF Period** | | |
| **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| Percentage of invoices paid within 15 working days of receipt | Not measured | 100% | 100% |
| Percentage of total procurement that targets businesses owned by Women | 40% | 40% | 40% |
| Percentage of total procurement that targets businesses owned by Youth | 30% | 30% | 30% |
| Percentage of total procurement that targets businesses owned by People with Disabilities | 7% | 7% | 7% |
| Percentage of total procurement that targets businesses owned by Military Veterans | 1% | 0,2% | 0,2% |
| Percentage Reduction in irregular expenditure | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Percentage procurement implemented through the open tender system | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Percentage increase in department spend in township | 40% | 40% | 40% |
| Percentage of the rand value of tenders above R30 million to be sub-contracted to SMMEs | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Clean audit outcome obtained from the Auditor-General | Not measured | Clean audit | Clean audit |

Table 3 above illustrates the appropriations in the office of the CFO

**The Committee continues to observe with concern that in the previous financial years, some service providers were appointed late while some rendered work of poor quality to farmers.** **It would be critical that the Department monitors service providers and ensure that they do not breach their contract especially on the delivery of production inputs.**

## 6.2 PROGRAMME 2: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Programme aims to optimise the contribution of sustainable agriculture towards the equitable development of all communities and the economy in the Province by enhancing food security, income generation, job creation and the quality of life; and to control and manage health risks of animal origin, thus stimulating economic growth and contributing to poverty alleviation and international trade. This programme consists of six sub-programmes: Agricultural Economics Services, Farmer Support & Development, Research and Technology Development Services, Rural Development Coordination, Sustainable Resource Management and Veterinary Services.

**The Committee continues to be concerned with the** **backlog faced with the establishment of infrastructure projects brought about by the IDMS policy and encourages the Department to ensure that the backlog will be reduced in the year under review.**

**The Sustainable Resource Management services** budget increases from R7.5 million in 2022/23 to R7.9 million in the outer MTEF year. This increase is for the removal of alien vegetation and wetlands rehabilitation in relation to the Land Care Conditional grant. It is critical that the branch be allocated more funds due to the nature of its function.

**The Farmer Support and Development programme’s** main service is to render extension and advisory services to subsistence producers by providing production inputs such as vegetable seeds, compost, watering cans and provision of production infrastructure in the form of piggery and poultry housing. The programme is funded through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme grant and the Illima/Letsema conditional grant. Over the 2021 MTEF, the allocation grows from R221 million in 2021/22 to R238 million in 2022/23 financial year. The Committee encourages the Department to ensure that Agricultural Cooperatives are assisted with agricultural advice and access to markets.

**The Veterinary Services** budget increases from R106 million in 2021/22 to R109 million in 2022/23. The budget is availed for increased demand for clinical services in the economic development corridors as well as to extend veterinary services to previously marginalised communities. L lastly, it is used for maintaining optimal biosecurity measures on farms to reduce the risk of spread of diseases as well as import and export services.

**The Research and Technology Development services** budget decreases from R83 million in 2021/2022 to R79 million in 2022/2023 to render expert and needs based research, development and technology transfer services to farmers to improve agricultural production. The Department is commended for realizing the importance of spending a significant amount in the budget on research. Moreover, the Department is encouraged to continue treating Agricultural research with high importance so as to provide long term solutions to the challenges faced by the sector.

**The Agriculture Economic Services** allocation is set at R42 million in 2022/23 and will decrease to R37 million in 2023/24, for managing and coordinating the provision of agriculture, agro-processing and technical services. Furthermore, the programme will continue to provide support to farmers to access markets and sell their agricultural produce. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to continue supporting small scale farmers with marketing of their products and to assist them to have access to markets as most small-scale farmers continue to have a challenge of sustaining themselves.

**The Rural Development** allocation is R10,7 million in 2022/23 primarily to ensure proper coordination with GPG departments regarding services supporting rural enterprises and industries; providing skills development opportunities in rural development initiatives; creating job opportunities; and supporting rural infrastructure projects. It is important to enhance this sub-programme in order to curb the migration of people from rural areas to the metropolitan areas and therefore enhance the economies of the various rural Gauteng nodes. Even though the main role player in rural development is the National Department and that the Department’s role is mainly to coordinate stakeholders involved with projects at the various rural nodes, it would seem that this area is not getting the attention it deserves.

**6.3** **PROGRAMME 3: ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

This programme is responsible for promoting equitable use of ecosystem goods and services; and contributing to economic development by managing biological diversity and its components. The programme also ensures that the province implements the principles of integrated waste management; promotes sustainable development and quality of life by ensuring acceptable ambient air quality and sustainable mining practices and manage hazardous chemicals and industrial related activities. The programme consists of four sub-programmes namely, Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination; Environmental Quality Management; Compliance and Enforcement as well as Biodiversity Management.

The programme has been allocated **R292,38 million** in the current FY which denotes a decrease of **3,9%** compared to the 2021/22 FY Departmental budget. The budget is projected to increase by **4,5% (R13 million)** in the 2023/24 FY to **R305,5 million**.

**The Environmental Policy, Planning and Coordination allocation** increased from R27 million in 2021/22 to R31 million over the MTEF. The allocation is intended to manage climate change impacts and to have a positive influence on the quality of life and ecosystem services, a low carbon economy and disaster risk management.

**The Compliance and Enforcement** allocation will decrease from R47 million in 2021/22 to R45.9 million in the 2022/23 financial year. The allocated budget will be dedicated to the monitoring of Environmental Assessment y conducting proactive and reactive inspections and conducting criminal investigations. The Department is encouraged to continue improving compliance and enhance protection of the environment in the Province.

**The Environmental Quality Management** budget escalates from R58 million in 2021/22 to R60 million in the 2022/23 financial year. Provision is made for issuing of atmospheric emission licenses that lead to minimum emission standards of compliance as well as the development of ambient stations for effective ambient air quality monitoring.

**The Biodiversity Management** allocation is R100 million in 2022/23 and R115 million in the 2023/24 financial year. The budget is availed to continue to encourage investment in management and protection of existing protected areas. Moreover, the Department will strive to implement the Gauteng Protected Areas Expansion Strategy as a means of protected area expansion. **The Committee is still concerned with the challenges experienced by the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and urges the Department to collaborate with the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development (DID) on the turnaround strategy to improve the nature reserve.**

**Environmental Empowerment Services** have been allocated R54 million in 2022/23. It will decrease to R52 million in 2023/24. Funds are allocated for projects such as clearing of alien vegetation and of invasive and bush encroaching plant species, integrated fire management, rehabilitation of wetlands, planting of trees and development of community nurseries, removal of solid waste from rivers and, lastly, environmental awareness programmes which includes training in the contribution to poverty reduction and unemployment.

1. **COMMITTEE CONCERNS**

**The Committee is concerned about:**

* 1. Continuous inability to eradicate the backlog faced with the establishment of infrastructure projects brought about by the IDMS policy.
  2. Inadequate support given to small holder farmers and Agricultural Cooperatives.
  3. Lack of reporting and plans relating to Environmental Affairs in the Province, particularly on climate change.
  4. Lack of initiatives to create employment in the agricultural sector
  5. Lack of plans to address the impact of climate change on food security in the Province.
  6. The continuous failure to identify available land for rehabilitation and agricultural production and the implementation thereof; and lack of assistance to small holder farmers to gain access to land for agriculture and agro-processing purpose.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Portfolio Committee recommends the following;**

**The reports should be submitted to the Committee by the 30th August 2022.**

9.1 Provide the Committee with a detailed and remedial plan in terms of how the various infrastructure projects will be supported in the current financial year through the IDMS policy. Furthermore, provide progress report on the implementation of the projects by DBSA.

9.2 Provide the Committee with a detailed plan on enhancing functionality of subsistence, small holder, Women and Youth farmers. The plan must include how the Department plans to provide small holder farmers with sufficient support to enhance marketing of their produce.

9.3 The Department should form a strong collaborative relationship with municipalities that are affected, and further ensure that waste management and greening efforts are maintained and adhered to by communities. Provide the Committee with a detailed plan on how they will assist, and support affected Municipalities to ensure that there is environmental compliance in their areas.

* 1. Provide the Committee with a detailed plan on how the Department will contribute to creating employment in the agricultural sector
  2. Provide the Committee with a detailed plan on how the impact of climate change will be handled on food security in the Province.
  3. Provide the Committee with a comprehensive report that includes a list of identified land for agricultural production, land to be rehabilitated, criteria to be used to assist small holder farmers to gain access to Land.

**Overall Recommendations:**

* 1. Given the onerous regulatory environment of the cannabis industry, the Department should provide the Committee with a detailed report on the role that they will play to ensure that small holders and emerging farmers are enabled to acquire growing and processing regulatory compliance.
  2. Provide monthly progress reports on the releasing of land for economic development purposes in the Province.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development wishes to thank the MEC for Economic Development and Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Parks Tau, the Head of Department, Ms M Gasela and her team of officials. The Chairperson, Ms F Hassan further wishes to acknowledge and express his gratitude to the Honourable Members of the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Members Mr L Makhubela, Ms S Nkosi-Malobane, Ms B Mncube, Mr M Gana, Ms A Cilliers, Mr A Tshitangano, Mr J Hoffman, Mr D Adams. Further appreciation goes to the alternate Members of the Committee namely Members: Mr A Alberts, Ms Du Plessis and Ms B Badenhorst. It is an honour to lead such a hard-working team. Furthermore, the Portfolio Committee would like to express appreciation for the contribution of the following support staff members: Group Committee Coordinator Mr T Bodibe; the Committee Researchers Mr B Mabuza, Ms M Makhubele and Dr A Malapane, Senior Committee Coordinator Mr T Skosana, Committee Coordinator Ms L Mampe, Administrative Assistants; Ms N. Mngadi and Ms V Mokubetsi, Hansard Recorder Mr S Baloyi, Senior Information officer, Ms Azwinndini Netshivhuyu, Communications Officer; Mr Takalani Ndou, Service Officer Ms Busisiwe Nhlapo, and Public Participation Officer: Mr B Dhlomo for their dedication and commitment.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

After due consideration the Economic Development Portfolio Committee unanimously adopted the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Budget Vote 11 Report for the 2022/23FY. In terms of Rule 117(2)(c) read together with Rule 164 the Committee presents to this House and recommends the adoption of the Committee’s Oversight Report on the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Budget Vote 11 Report for the 2022/23 FY.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Hon. Fasiha Hassan**

**Chairperson: Economic, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee**

**Gauteng Provincial Legislature**