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Department:  
**Rural, Environment and Agricultural  
Development**  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

AgriCentre Building  
Cnr. Dr. James Moroka and Stadium Rd  
Private Bag X2039,  
Mmabatho 2735  
Republic of South Africa  
Tel: +27 (18) 389 5768  
Fax: +27(18) 384 4571  
tsholofelod@nwpg.gov.za

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## **CHIEF DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

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# **Media Release**

## **Mazista boosts fresh vegetable gardens**

**Monday, 26 September 2016**

**Mazista:** Efforts to rid North West communities off hunger and poverty are yielding positive results. The Mazista Community in Kgetleng Local Municipality has hailed the recent food security projects effort of the Department of Rural Environment and Agricultural Development. Many of the households gardens have grown and families are feeding and selling from them.

The READ department launched food security projects at Mazista in July this year. With the projects, 60 households were assisted with household mini-tunnels. The primary school received a shade net for the vegetable garden. The communal garden was expanded and the families of the communal garden received 500 live layers to enable them to make some monthly living from the project.

The Mazista settlement came after the shocking random shootings of 14 January 2008 by Johan Nel, at the then informal settlement which was called "Skierlik"-a name derived after the people who were retired from the Mazista slate mine got permission from the land owner to erect their shacks there. People were

subsequently moved from their shacks, to the current area, which was donated by the mine owner.

Meisie Moiphithi, one of the beneficiaries of a vegetable garden said the family is now feeding from the garden. She said the grown spinach is enough and she is able to sell up to five bunches a day. Moiphithi said she plans to continue with the garden as it has proven to assist them.

A 37 year old, unemployed beneficiary, Ali Madimabe said he was making all efforts for his garden to grow better vegetables and feed his family of five. Madimabe said they frequently experience water shortage but he has resorted to reused water for his garden.

The chicken laying project produces at least 13 trays a day. The market remains the local community and hawkers but two local home based care centres are a regular client. Elise Williams, The project manager said the members are hard at work to ensure that it remains sustainable. Due a demand, the project membership has increased from 20 to 23 resulting in two officers being office bound to allow administrative work to continue without hindrance. The project majority members remain women who are eager to see the project go to greater heights.

MEC for READ, Manketsi Tlhape said the department prides itself when projects have an impact on communities. "We have committed the department to ensuring that it creates ways for people to feed themselves and that the province is food and nutrition secure. We become happy when people end up feeding from these gardens," MEC elaborated. She further indicated that the department was aware of water challenges but commended beneficiaries who make all efforts to take care of their gardens including employing used water for their gardens.

MEC Tlhape said provincial food security efforts give expression to the ACT (Arts, Culture and Tourism) developmental agenda of the province and contribute to the country's priority areas of economic development.

**Photos:**

4340: Members of the communal garden wants to see a sustainable project.

4362: Mazista boosts fresh vegetable gardens since the launch of the Food Security Projects

**## ends ##**

**Issued by the Communication Services Directorate**

**Enquiries: Tsholofelo Dintwe**

**Deputy Director: Media Relations and Marketing Services**

**Tel: 018 389 5768/083 576 7655/079 946 7486**

**Email: [tsholofelod@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:tsholofelod@nwpg.gov.za)**