

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes North West goat farming initiative: Calls for strong action to protect workers and smallholder farmers
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The Public Servants Association welcomes the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Goat Improvement and Beneficiation Programme.

This initiative has the potential to strengthen food production, support rural families, and grow the provincial economy. The PSA, however, calls for decisive action to ensure that the Programme benefits the workers and smallholder farmers who sustain the agriculture sector.

The PSA urges the Department to release full details of the Programme. Clear implementation plans are needed, with measurable targets and strict financial controls. Communities have seen many projects collapse owing to weak management. The PSA calls for firm oversight systems, regular progress reports, and open engagement with labour and community structures to prevent delays and waste. The PSA calls for direct support to smallholder farmers. Many operate with limited access to land, water, markets, and training opportunities. The Programme must guarantee financial support, affordable veterinary services, and easy access to improvement technology. Fair market systems are needed that allow rural farmers to grow their income and expand production.

The PSA highlights the urgent need to improve working conditions in the agriculture sector. Farm workers face low wages, unsafe duties, and unstable employment. The Programme must create decent jobs, strengthen workplace safety, and expand training for young people. Workers must experience real benefits, not symbolic promises.

The PSA further calls for strong partnerships. Collaboration between government, researchers, unions, farmers, and community structures builds stability and ensures equal participation. Inclusive planning processes are required, reflecting the needs of rural communities.

The PSA supports innovation and agricultural development and will monitor this Programme closely. The PSA expects decisive action that uplifts workers, strengthens small producers, creates jobs, and advances rural development in North West.

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