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## OFFICE OF THE MEC

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Our Reference:	B. SALI	Your Reference:	
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**TO : OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**  
**FROM : MEC FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM**  
**SUBJECT : RESPONSES TO IQP NO 17 WITH QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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### 392. Ms N Zinti to ask the MEC responsible for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform:

<p>(1) Noting that people from Mantusini are reportedly (ploughing) doing farming on cannabis and they want licencing on cannabis, whether she can kindly assist them to get licence for cannabis farming; if so,</p> <p>(a) how and</p> <p>(b) when; if not,</p>	<p>(1) a) The Department will assist people from Mantusini to get licences for Cannabis farming by sending its Agricultural Advisor before the end of December 2024 (that is responsible for Mantusini) to engage the farmers and guide them on the application process of Cannabis licenses.</p> <p>(b) Once they have all the required information and understand the requirements, the ECRDA and DRDAR officials will guide the people further with the application processes.</p>
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<p>(2) where they can be assisted to get licence for cannabis farming.</p> <p>(3) noting that the farmers from Port St Johns are reportedly requesting assistance to move from subsistence farming to commercial farming and also noting that they are not getting any assistance from government although they have land and ploughing implements, like tractors, irrigation scheme and other implements, can she kindly ensure her Department intervenes in this regard; if so, which intervention or assistance can her Department give to them so as to be able to move to commercial farming ?</p>	<p>(2) They can be assisted to get licence for Cannabis farming in the Offices of ECRDA and the Offices of DRDAR. However, the application is processed by the South African Health Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) of the national Department of Health.</p> <p>3) (a) The Department is supporting PSJ farmers beyond subsistence farming. In the current financial year, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 832 ha is supported with green and dry maize production inputs amounting to R2 662 400, benefiting 172 farmers.</li><li>• 189ha is supported with vegetable production inputs amounting to R1 417 500benefiting 78 farmers</li><li>• In the last 5 years, 89ha of land has been put under irrigation, amounting to R19 500 000 in the area of Port St Johns. The aim is to produce intensively at commercial level</li><li>• In OR Tambo plans for 2025/26 financial year, a pack-house for vegetable value addition and processing is budgeted for an amount of R1 500 000. This is another effort to support commercialization of vegetable</li></ul>
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	production in the area of Port St Johns.
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Yours sincerely

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**Ms N Kontsiwe**  
**MEC FOR DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & AGRARIAN REFORM**