



CABINET MEETS AGRICULTURE 2022:



Overberg District Municipality

OVERBERG DISTRICT

Information supplied by:

Mary James, Head of Communication, Department of Agriculture.



Above: Premier of the Western Cape Government, Alan Winde.

Far left: Dr Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture and

Left: Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen.

The Department of Community Safety co-leads the Rural Safety Strategy with the Department of Agriculture and will be hosting Rural Safety Summits and it's Policing Needs and Priorities workshops across the Province from September 2022. On 15 September 2022, the Western Cape Provincial Cabinet engaged agricultural sector stakeholders in the heart of wheat country, Bredasdorp, Overberg District. The event is an annual engagement where cabinet members engage directly with the agricultural role-players in an effort to report back on commitments made towards addressing the socio-economic challenges confronting the sector, identify emerging issues, craft new strategies and concomitant actions in an effort to strengthen relationships and improve economic prosperity within the sector and the province at large. The last Cabinet meets Agriculture took place in 2019 and both cabinet and the agricultural sector were eager to interface after the unexpected two year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Left: Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen and Head of Department for Community Safety, Adv Yashina Pillay alongside cabinet members, HOD's and Executive Mayor Franken.



Left: Premier of the Western Cape Government, Alan Winde addressing the stakeholders alongside cabinet members of the Western Cape Government.

Despite various challenges confronting the sector in the past couple of years (such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing Russia and Ukraine conflict, animal disease outbreaks,

climate change and the various threats it brings i.e. drought, fires, floods,) the Western Cape agricultural sector accounts for approximately 55% of all South African exports of agricultural products. The share of the national exports is slightly higher than what it was in 2008 (48%). This positive growth trend in exports demonstrate that the Cabinet and its stakeholders are doing "the right things".

The concept of agriculture is to grow, be it plants or animals and in a country that has high unemployment rates, agriculture hasn't ceased to amaze, showing significant growth on the employment front, the total number of persons employed in the Western Cape primary agricultural sector were 199 293 in 2018, down from 225 602 in 2008 (-12%). Despite the challenges that brought a negative employment growth rate, the Western Cape was again the largest provincial employer in 2018 (199 293 employees or 21% of the national primary agricultural employment). The latest figures for 2021 shows the same province leading with 174 859 agri-workers which is a 20% share of the agriculture employment in South Africa (Quantec, 2022).

Premier Alan Winde applauded the farmers and agricultural workers for their continued hard work in driving the province's economic recovery. "Farmers and agri-workers feed the nation and so it goes without saying that they are crucial stakeholders for the government," said Premier Winde.

Key role-players in the sector such as Agri Western Cape, Citrus Growers Association, SA Poultry Association, Hortgro and representatives from the Prestige Agri Worker Forum were provided an opportunity to table some of their key challenges and priorities to cabinet.

Industries exporting commodities through the harbour appreciated the ongoing negotiations with the National Ports Authority to ensure that facilities operate efficiently.

Mr Thamsanqa Mxokozeli got an opportunity to share his experience as an emerging young farmer in the province. Mr Mxokozeli is a beneficiary of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and farms in the Bredasdorp area where he currently employs 14 people. His story demonstrates that with government support, it is possible to transition from smallholder to a commercial farmer. He thanked the Western Cape Government for helping him grow his business.

Dr Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, expressed gratitude to farmers, agri-workers, and producers in the agriculture value chain for their immense contributions towards socio economic development in the province. The Minister added: "The Western Cape is the dominant player in the horticultural sector. The observed real gross income growth highlighted the deciduous, subtropical fruit and vegetables as the top three performing products."

Premier Alan Winde in his closing remarks stressed that agriculture is the catalyst that creates other businesses and jobs for many residents, particularly in rural areas where they are needed most, and in turn creates hope."

The agricultural sector in the Western Cape is rather unique as it's driven by great public and private partnerships, with common goals backed with accountable (and sustainable) plans and the vision of ensuring food security and economic prosperity for all. This has remained the stable foundation that has ensured resilience and consistency in the performance of the Western Cape Agricultural sector through the years. As Minister Meyer would say, **"we do it #ForTheLoveOfAgriculture"**



West Coast District Municipality
Weskus Distriksmunisipaliteit



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS MEET TO IMPROVE COLLABORATION



Above: Law Enforcement officials and councillors who attended the briefing in Moorreesburg.

As part of West Coast District Municipality's Community Safety programme a workshop between various law enforcement entities to clarify roles and responsibilities took place at the West Coast District Municipality's Disaster Management Centre in Moorreesburg. Councillors responsible for safety at municipalities, senior municipal management, municipal law enforcement officers, municipal traffic, the SAPS, neighbourhood watches (NHWs), farm watches and security were in attendance. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the roles and responsibilities of these agencies.

The West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) driven by the Disaster Management Centre engaged in a role and responsibility session with all the local municipalities and response agencies in the West Coast.

The intent was that the SAPS from a legal perspective communicate to the respective law enforcement agencies their roles, responsibilities, and obligations. The same process was implemented with the NHWs in the region. Moreover, clarification was done to enhance the working relationship of entities in the region. The WCDM Community Safety Plan encourages closer working relationships – and this session was done to cement that.

Further to this, the local municipalities were given the opportunity to present their local jurisdiction responsibilities in terms of the K9 unit's reaction teams and respective obligations. The agenda included a question-and-answer session to unpack challenges regarding the implementation of safety measurements.



Above: The pocket guide which was developed by WCDM's Disaster Management team.

Information supplied By:
 Heinrich Robertson (Public Relations and Communications Officer) and Franquin Welsch Petersen (Manager: Head of Centre at the Disaster Management Centre)
 West Coast District Municipality and **Compiled By:**
 Chantell Hendricks

A few resolutions were determined in workshops to be communicated and digested in further engagements:

- SAPS and local municipality (LM) to prioritise bylaws that can have an influence on crime;
- SAPS legal department to process/ request the necessary instruction to align powers of law enforcement officers and Traffic officers;
- SAPS to share provincial instructions on utilising private security entities;
- each LM to engage with all law enforcement agencies with each jurisdiction via structured bodies to ensure uniformed and coordination approaches;
- SAPS assistance is required in terms of guidance on illegal taxis on borders of district.

In addition to this the West Coast Disaster Management Centre in collaboration with all safety partners developed a Safety and Security booklet to assist, guide and equip respective law enforcement officials and NHWs with authentic information when serving our communities. Funding for the project was commissioned out of the Community Safety grant which speaks to public education and awareness.

Information was obtained from respective nodes in Community Safety and it is thematic in its presentation as it highlights the:

- Code of conduct;
- Constitution;
- Powers and duties of the -SAPS and law enforcement;
- Taking of statements;
- Respective legislation;
- Practical guide for NHWs etc.

In conclusion the WCDM brought these role-players together as they influence policy and can make a strong impression in the region to improve collaboration and enhance community safety.

"I want to thank everybody involved in compiling the booklet for their valuable contribution and for the overall success of the project. A special thanks to the Western Cape Government for allocating funding to the WCDM to enhance safety in the West Coast" said Mayor Strydom.

The West Coast district municipality recently approved a Community Safety Plan and the municipality aims to play a central role in coordinating safety in the West Coast district.



THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMENDS THE K9 UNIT OF THE SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL JOINT CRIME PREVENTION OPERATION



On 23 July 2022, the K9 Unit of the Swarthland Municipality assisted South African Police Services (SAPS) Anti-Gang Unit (AGU) in a crime Intelligence driven operation. One adult male was arrested when officers seized a firearm and ammunition in his possession.

The suspect was detained at the Atlantis SAPS and is expected to appear before the Atlantis Magistrates Court. **The K9 unit, which includes the dogs and their handlers, have been trained to provide support at integrated law enforcement operations in terms of:**

- Preventing the illegal transportation of narcotics and, explosives as well as the poaching of marine resources;
- Delivering crime prevention through an integrated multi-disciplinary model aimed at combatting and preventing criminality;
- Ensuring compliance with the relevant legislation including the National Road Traffic Act, the Criminal Procedure Act, Drug and Drug Trafficking Act and Firearm Control Act;
- Increasing coverage through the deployment of K9 resources after hours; and
- Maintaining a high degree of visible policing by means of K9 patrols, deployment to identified areas which includes weigh bridges, key points and identified crime hot spots.



Images showcasing the confiscation of firearm and ammunition by **Swarthland Municipality K9 Unit and SAPS**.

K9 units have been established in the Overberg Municipality, Swarthland Municipality and the City of Cape Town, with Mossel Bay Municipality next.

Information Supplied By: Xenophone Wentzel and **Compiled By:**

Ishaam Davids



LEAP OFFICERS ARREST OVER 1400 PEOPLE OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS



Between April 2022 and July 2022, Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers have been tackling crime head-on in the 14 police precincts where they are deployed.

These officers are making a significant difference in areas such as Delft, Gugulethu, Harare, Khayelitsha (Site B policing precinct), Kraaifontein, Mfuleni, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga, Philippi East, and Samora Machel, inclusive of the top 10 murder stations as reflected in the crime statistics. Other high crime areas where LEO's are deployed are Atlantis, Bishop Lavis and Hanover Park, and recently Lavender Hill, Steenberg and Grassy Park.

These placements are strategic and backed by evidence and data. For a few years, Nyanga's been known as the murder capital of South Africa. From the 2010/11 financial year up to 2018/19, Nyanga registered the highest reported murder cases in the country. Backed by this data and evidence, the first LEAP deployment in 2020 became a priority for this area.

It is worth noting that the Nyanga police station conceded the Samora Machel police precinct and relinquished its position of being the police station with the highest murders in the country and the province. The Nyanga police station's murder cases decreased by 36% (104) from 289 cases reported in 2018/19 to 185 murder cases in 2019/20. LEAP has made significant inroads in various areas and for the first time in a few years, Nyanga had a reduction in its murder rate for four consecutive quarters during the entire 2021/22 financial year. Gugulethu, a regular precinct on the list of top 30 murder stations across the country no longer features on the list. These, along with other successes can directly be linked to the strategic deployment of LEAP officers.



LEAP has also started incorporating the Western Cape Government's recently launched Safety Dashboard. This dashboard is providing real-time data to provincial safety stakeholders and helps identify exactly where the LEAP officers are mostly required. The dashboard is updated every 3 days and is being automated to further provide daily updates. This strengthens our hand to anticipate where new hotspots may appear so that we can deploy the necessary resources - before lives are lost. The Emergency Medical Services data will also be integrated with the Safety Dashboard, to provide us with a more complete picture of violence and trauma in the province.

During April 2022 – July 2022, LEAP officers have amongst others:

- Searched 108 227 persons;
- These searches helped ensure that 1 491 persons were arrested;
- 35 were for the possession of an illegal firearm, 46 for the possession of illegal ammunition, 24 for the possession of an imitation firearm;
- 1 177 for the possession of drugs and;
- 209 for the possession of dangerous weapons. Confiscations occurred in the various areas where LEAP is deployed.

As LEAP officers work with a multitude of law enforcement agencies, they conducted 1 736 integrated operations with other City of Cape Town law enforcement agencies and SAPS.

Minister Allen said: "The consistent efforts of the LEAP officers and being the extra boots on the ground, demonstrates the importance of visible policing. This is one of the most effective methods in combatting crime, particularly murder, which is the primary focus area of the LEAP deployment. The confiscation of the various weapons ensures that fewer people could potentially be harmed by guns, while the removal of drugs helps ensure that our people do not get addicted to illicit substances that leads to various crimes, including committing murder."

"LEAP would never be able to combat crime by themselves and serves as a force multiplier to the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies. I would therefore like to urge all sectors of society to join us and create safer communities. By doing this and continuing to work together, we will be able to achieve greater success," concluded Minister Allen.

Information Supplied By: Marcellino Martin, Media Liaison Officer to the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety and **Compiled By:** Chantell Hendricks



Department of
Community Safety
FOR YOU

Follow us on Socials:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WesternCapeGovernment/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WesternCapeGov>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/westerncapegov>

Visit our Website:

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/dept/community-safety>

NHW Accreditation:

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/neighbourhood-watch-nhw>

Please send any news or feedback to
Docs.Comms@westerncape.gov.za.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

We hope that you will enjoy the first edition of the **Municipal Newsletter**, scroll through to see what is inside this edition.

Editorial team: • Adv Yashina Pillay (Head of Department: Community Safety) • Ansaaf Mohamed Director: Strategic Services and Communication.

Writers/Contributors: • Chantell Hendricks (Principal Communications Officer: Communications) • Ameerah Kenny (Assistant Director: Communications) • Ishaam Davids (Deputy Director: Communications) • Xenophone Wentzel (Assistant Director: Safety Promotion and Partnerships) • Heinrich Robertson (Public Relations and Communications Officer, West Coast District Municipality) • Franquin Welsch Petersen (Manager: Head of Centre at the Disaster Management Centre, West Coast District Municipality) • Myrtle Benjamin (Pogramme Manager: Western Region, Cape Winelands District Municipality).

Design and Layout: • Chantell Hendricks (Principal Communications Officer: Communications)

Images: Sourced from the DoCS photo bank and received from DoCS Project Coordinators and Municipal Chief Communications Officers

**SAFETY
STAKE-
HOLDERS**

**WORKING
TOGETHER**

FOR YOU