



## **Media Statement**

For Immediate Release

### **Ensuring Food Security, Creating Jobs – NLC gives a boost to farming in Eastern Cape**

**30 April 2019** – The National Lotteries Commission (‘the Commission’) has handed over farming equipment to the Simigaye Community Project in Mount Ayliff, Eastern Cape.

R 13 million has been allocated as part of the Commission’s proactive funding initiative, and includes site preparation, fencing, and farming equipment that includes tractors, ploughing equipment and training and capacity-building; among others.

Speaking at the sod-turning and handover event, NLC Chairperson Prof Alfred Nevhutanda emphasised the important role that the agriculture sector plays in the economy and in terms of job creation, especially in rural areas.

Nevhutanda added that one of the focus areas for funding in the Commission’s Arts, Culture and National Heritage Sector under Environment for 2019/20 is small-scale farming and food gardens, which has the expected outcomes of improved knowledge and awareness, improved environments, job creation, and most importantly – sustainable livelihoods.

Located in Lugelweni Village, the equipment was received by Amaxasibe Chief Nomatamba Fikeni, Eastern Cape MEC for Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Mr Fikile Xasa and Executive Mayor of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Cllr. Sixolile Mehlomakhulu.

### **Proactive Funding**

The Commission’s Proactive Funding Policy is implemented as per the Lotteries Act No 57 of 1997, as amended, and has been approved in line with sec 2A (3) of the Lotteries Amendment Act 32 of 2013, which permits direct intervention in the form of pro-active funding.

This funding also comes on the tail of a revived Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL), which aims to capacitate rural communities to effectively manage community-based projects towards sustainability, while



delivering services to the poor, establish monitoring and evaluation processes that support best practice in providing capacity building, and proactively co-fund identified projects for the benefit of rural communities, among others.

**Ends.**

**Issued by:**

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