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To all media houses

**WOMEN DESERVE LAND TO TRANSFORM THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, RID THE PROVINCE OF POVERTY AND CHANGE THE NARRATIVE ABOUT THEMSELVES - SITHOLE-MOLOI.**

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs. Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, said the rise of passionate young black women like Lindokuhle Ngubane, owner of Tsar Beef feedlot farm in Franklin near Kokstad, deepens the clarion call for the land to be allocated to women, as a matter of urgency.

Speaking at the launch of Tsar Beef farm set as part of a series of women-owned agricultural projects to be showcased during this Women's Month, Sithole-Moloi said women of Ngubane's fortitude are an undeniable evidence that women deserve to be allocated land as a solution for a transformed agricultural sector and poverty free province.

She added that it is unfair that while the women are a majority within the agricultural sector, yet they remain at the periphery of the economy and land allocation.

"This launch of a 100% black women-owned farm affirms that women have the power to change their situations. They deserve land as a matter of urgency to ensure that programmes developed by government are implemented successfully.

These are the women that dispel the general narratives that woman cannot do it for themselves, that farming is in white men's genes, that running business is in the male genes and that it was better off during apartheid government," Sithole-Moloi said.

In 2015, Ms. Lindokuhle Ngubane took over a farm in Franklin near Kokstad and started farming with just a few livestock and one employee. Six years later, this 100% black female owned feedlot farm known as Tsar Beef now boasts 120 cows, 8 bulls, 60 sheep, 100 weaners and 7 fulltime employees.

All this was made possible by the investment of R4 000 000 from the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA) and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (DARD) technical and veterinary support to ensure the sustainability of this 1700 ha farm with timber, grazing and grain production as the initial activities.

**For more information, kindly contact Media Liaison Officer, Mr. Mack Makhathini on 076 965 5870 and ADA Marketing and Communication Specialist, Siphuxolo Mazwi, on 078 509 1314.**