

**PARLIAMENT OF THE  
PROVINCE OF THE  
WESTERN CAPE**

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**QUESTION PAPER**

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**WRITTEN REPLY**

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Note: \* Indicates translated version.

**FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2026**

**17. Mr N P Masipa to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:**

(a) How many individuals have participated in his Department's experiential learning and work placement programmes in the (i) 2024/25 and (ii) 2025/26 financial years, (b)(i) how many applications are expected to be received in 2026/27 and (ii) what pro-portion of applicants can be accommodated, (c) what engagement has his Department undertaken with stakeholders and other partners to expand experiential learning oppor-tunities, (d) how many companies or organisations are currently participating in these initiatives, (e) what key (i) skills gaps or (ii) workplace readiness challenges have been identified by industry partners among the unemployed youth seeking placement oppor-tunities and (f) what measures is his Department implementing to address these gaps through its experiential learning programmes?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM:  
*DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE***

**a) Internship programmes offered by the Department**

The Department offers the following internship and youth development programmes:

- **First Work Experience Programme** (for matriculants) – **12 months**
- **Agricultural Partnership for Youth Development Programme** (for matriculants) – interns are placed on farms in rural areas for **12 months**

- **Student Internship Programme** (for undergraduate students requiring Work Integrated Learning) – **6 to 18 months**
- **Graduate Internship Programme** (for graduates with a National Diploma or Degree in Agriculture) – **24 months**
- **Graduate Administrative Internship Programme** – **24 months**
- **Young Professional Persons (YPP) Programme** – targets previously disadvantaged individuals by offering bursaries for **Master’s and Doctoral studies**, coupled with a service contract to gain relevant work experience within the Department

**Number of participants per programme**

Year	First Work Experience	Agricultural for Youth Development	Student internships	Graduate interns	Administrative Graduates	Young Professionals Persons
(i) 2024/25	10	30	15	120		2
(ii) 2025/26	10	30	15	104	11	2
<b>Bursaries and scholarships</b>						
	<b>Bursaries</b>	<b>Scholarships</b>				
(i) 2024/25	39	7				
(ii) 2025/26	36	7				

**(b) Internship applications and targets**

**(i) Expected number of applications for 2026/27**

The Department received over 2,800 internship applications for the 2026/27 financial year. Due to budgetary constraints we can only accommodate a limited number of candidates

**(ii) Annual Performance Plan (APP) target**

The Department’s APP target is 170 interns for the year, 2026/2027.

**c) Stakeholder engagement to expand experiential learning opportunities**

The Department actively promotes experiential learning opportunities through:

- Participation in career exhibitions
  - Presence at agricultural shows
  - Responding to ad hoc requests from schools and municipalities
  - Participation in Youth Day events and mobile Thusong outreach programmes in rural areas
  - Hosting stakeholder engagement meetings with key role players in the agricultural sector
- Through these initiatives, the Department reached 7,033 youth during the reporting period 2025.

**d) Organisations participating in experiential learning initiatives**

The Department currently has 106 signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with companies and organisations across the province. These partners play a vital role by:

- Providing practical training opportunities
- Offering mentorship and supervision
- In some cases, assisting with transportation and accommodation at minimal cost and in some instances they become employers to the candidates.

**e) Skills gaps and workplace readiness challenges identified**

Industry partners have identified several challenges among unemployed youth seeking placement:

**(i) Skills gaps**

- Mismatch between available qualifications and industry requirements.
- Limited exposure to practical agricultural environments.

**(ii) Workplace readiness challenges**

- Language barriers, particularly on farms where Afrikaans is the primary operational language.
- Limited understanding of workplace expectations and professional conduct

To mitigate these challenges, the Department provides:

- Compulsory work-readiness training through the Provincial Training Institute (PTI)
- Orientation sessions before placement.
- Dedicated mentors assigned to each intern.

**f) Measures implemented to address identified gaps**

The Department has implemented several measures to strengthen outcomes of experiential learning programmes:

- A structured exit strategy to support interns after completion of their internships.
- Eligible interns are supported to pursue further studies in agriculture through bursary opportunities.
- The Young Professional Persons (YPP) Programme specifically supports postgraduate studies (Master's and Doctoral) through full bursaries combined with service contracts, ensuring the Department retains critical skills while developing high-level expertise in the sector.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

(a) A total of number of 2 963 individuals were reported on during the 2024/25 financial year, and a total number of 2 244 individuals will be reported on during 2025/26. The 2025/26 number of individuals still need to be verified and audited.

(b) The target for individuals to be supported in the 2026/27 financial year is 1 700. The Department has received applications for a total of 3 270 individuals to date.

- (c) A comprehensive website is available to companies who have appetite to accommodate individuals as the programme is industry demand based.
- (d) During the 2024/25 financial year a total of 54 companies signed MoAs with the Department. In the 2025/26 financial year the total number of companies that have signed MoAs with the Department is 40, but this figure still needs to be verified and audited. The number of companies with which the Department partnered and placed learners at is 243 for the 2025/26 financial year.
- (e) Key gaps identified by companies are mostly behavioural in nature such as time management, ability to do research using reputable sources, critical thinking and how to work with personal finances. These gaps are addressed in the workplace readiness programmes that are presented by the companies who take on the individuals.
- (f) Soft skills training forms part of the requirements when companies apply for funding with the Department. Additional phsyco-analytical support is also a requirement to ensure the wellbeing of the individual is being addressed.

*Vrydag, 20 Maart 2026]*

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No 4 - 2026] DERDE SESSIE, SEWENDE PARLEMENT

**PARLEMENT VAN DIE  
PROVINSIE VAN DIE  
WES-KAAP**

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**VRAELYS**

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**SKRIFTELIKE BEANTWOORDING**

Note: \* Dui vertaalde weergawe aan.

**VRYDAG, 20 MAART 2026**

**\*17. Mnr N P Masipa vra dr I H Meyer, Minister van Landbou, Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling en Toerisme:**

(b) Hoeveel individue aan sy departement se programme vir ervaringsleer en werk-plasing in die (i) 2024/25- en (ii) 2025/26- finansiële jaar deelgeneem het, (b)(i) hoeveel aansoeke na verwagting in 2026/27 ontvang sal word en (ii) vir watter proporsie aan-soekers daar plek sal wees, (c) watter skakeling sy departement saam met belanghebbendes en ander vennote onderneem het om geleenthede vir ervaringsleer uit te brei, (d) hoe-veel maatskappye of organisasies tans aan hierdie inisiatiewe deelneem, (e) watter belangrike (i) vaardigheidsgapings of (ii) uitdagings met werkplekgereedheid deur ny-werheidsvennote geïdentifiseer is onder werklose jeugdiges wat na plasingseleenthede op soek is, en (f) watter maatreëls sy departement instel om aan hierdie gapings aandag te skenk deur middel van sy ervaringsleerprogramme?

## MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME:

### LANDBOU

#### a) Internskapprogramme wat deur die Departement aangebied word

Die Departement bied die volgende internskappe en jeugontwikkelingsprogramme aan:

- Eerste Werkservaringsprogram (vir matrikulante) – 12 maande
- Landbouvennootskap vir Jeugontwikkelingsprogram (vir matrikulante) – internskappe word op plase in landelike gebiede vir 12 maande aangebied
- Studente-internskapprogram (vir voorgraadse studente wat Werkgeïntegreerde Leer benodig) – 6 tot 18 maande
- Gegradueerde internskapprogram (vir gegradueerdes met 'n Nasionale Diploma of Graad in Landbou) – 24 maande
- Administratiewe gegradueerde internskapprogram – 24 maande
- Jong Professionele Persone (YPP)-program – gerig op voorheen benadeelde individue deur beurse vir Meesters- en Doktorale studies aan te bied, gekombineer met 'n dienskontrak om relevante werkservaring binne die Departement op te doen

#### Aantal deelnemers per program

Jaar	Eerste Werkservaring	Landbouvennootskap vir Jeugontwikkeling	Studente - internskappe	Gegradueerde internskappe	Administratiewe gegradueerdes	Jong Professionele Persone
2024/25	10	30	15	120		2
2025/26	10	30	15	104	11	2
<b>Beurse en studiebeurse</b>						
	<b>Bursaries</b>	<b>Scholarships</b>				

2024/ 25	39	7				
2025/ 26	36	7				

**b) Internskapaansoeke en teikens**

**(i) Verwagte aantal aansoeke vir 2026/27**

Die Departement het meer as 2 800 internskapaansoeke vir die 2026/27-boekjaar ontvang. As gevolg van begrotingsbeperkings kan die departement slegs 'n beperkte aantal kandidate akkommodeer

**(ii) Jaarlikse Prestasieplan (APP)-teiken**

Die Departement se APP-teiken is 170 internskappe vir die 2026/27 boekjaar.

**c) Betrokkenheid met belanghebbendes om ervaringsleer te bevorder**

Die Departement bevorder aktief ervaringsleer deur:

- Deelname aan loopbaanuitstallings
- Teenwoordigheid by landbouskoue
- Reaksie op ad hoc versoeke van skole en munisipaliteite
- Deelname aan Jeugdag-geleenthede en mobiele Thusong-uitreikprogramme in landelike gebiede
- Die aanbied van belanghebbervergaderings met sleutelrolspelers in die landbousektor  
Deur hierdie inisiatiewe het die Departement 7 033 jongmense gedurende die verslagtydperk bereik.

**d) Organisasies wat aan ervaringsleer-inisiatiewe deelneem**

Die Departement het tans 106 ondertekende Memorandums van Verstandhouding (MOV's) met maatskappye en organisasies regoor die provinsie. Hierdie vennote speel 'n belangrike rol deur:

- Praktiese opleidingsgeleenthede te verskaf
- Mentorskap en toesig te bied
- In sommige gevalle bystand te verleen met vervoer en akkommodasie teen minimale koste en in sommige gevalle word hulle werkgewers vir die kandidate.

**e) Vaardigheidsgapings en werksgereedheidsuitdagings wat geïdentifiseer is**

Bedryfsvennote het verskeie uitdagings onder werklose jongmense geïdentifiseer wat plasingseleenthede soek:

**(i) Vaardigheidsgapings**

- 'n Wanpassing tussen beskikbare kwalifikasies en die vereistes van die bedryf

- Beperkte blootstelling aan praktiese landbou-omgewings

**(ii) Werksgereedheidsuitdagings**

- Taalhindernisse, veral op plase waar Afrikaans die primêre werks- en kommunikasietaal is
- Beperkte begrip van werksplekverwagtings en professionele gedrag  
Om hierdie uitdagings aan te spreek, bied die Departement:
- Verpligte werksgereedheidsopleiding deur die Provinsiale Opleidingsinstituut (POI)
- Oriënteringssessies voor plasing
- 'n Toegewyde mentor wat aan elke intern toegewys word

**f) Maatreëls om geïdentifiseerde gapings aan te spreek**

Die Departement het verskeie maatreëls geïmplementeer om die uitkomst van ervaringsleerprogramme te versterk:

- 'n Gestruktureerde uitgangstrategie om interns ná voltooiing van hul programme te ondersteun
- Interns wat aan die toelatingsvereistes van hoërondewysinstellings voldoen, word aangemoedig en ondersteun om verder te studeer deur middel van beurse
- Die Jong Professionele Persone (YPP)-program fokus spesifiek op nagraadse studie (Meesters en Doktorale grade) deur volle beurse te bied, tesame met dienskontrakte, om kritieke vaardighede binne die Departement te ontwikkel en te behou

**DIE MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME**

**DEPARTEMENT VAN EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME**

- (a) 'n Totaal van 2 963 individue is gedurende die 2024/25 finansiële jaar gerapporteer, en 'n totaal van 2 244 individue sal gedurende 2025/26 gerapporteer word. Die 2025/26-getal individue moet nog geverifieer en geoudit word.
- (b) Die teiken vir individue wat gedurende die 2026/27 finansiële jaar ondersteun sal word, is 1 700. Die Departement het tot op hede aansoeke vir 'n totaal van 3 270 individue ontvang.
- (c) 'n Omvattende webwerf is beskikbaar vir maatskappye wat bereid is om individue te akkommodeer, aangesien die program vraaggedrewe vanuit die bedryf is.
- (d) Gedurende die 2024/25 finansiële jaar het 'n totaal van 54 maatskappye Memorandums van Ooreenkoms (MvO's) met die Departement onderteken. In die 2025/26 finansiële jaar is die totale aantal maatskappye wat MvO's met die Departement onderteken het 40, maar hierdie syfer moet nog geverifieer en geoudit word. Die aantal maatskappye waarmee die

Departement vennootskappe gesluit het en leerders geplaas het, is 243 vir die 2025/26 finansiële jaar.

- (e) Sleutelgape wat deur maatskappye geïdentifiseer is, is meestal gedragsmatig van aard, soos tydsbestuur, die vermoë om navorsing met betroubare bronne te doen, kritiese denke en hoe om met persoonlike finansies te werk. Hierdie gapings word aangespreek in die werkplekgereedheidsprogramme wat deur die maatskappye aangebied word wat die individue aanstel.
  
- (f) Sagtevaardigheidsopleiding vorm deel van die vereistes wanneer maatskappye vir befondsing by die Departement aansoek doen. Addisionele psigo-analitiese ondersteuning is ook 'n vereiste om te verseker dat die welstand van die individu aangespreek word.