

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

22-04-2021

Transfer of Colleges of Agriculture from Provinces into National Competence

The information sharing session took place at Tompi Seleka Agricultural College on 21 April 2021 as a precursor to consultation. The National Department's representative presented as follows:

Government started discussing the transfer of Colleges of Agriculture into a National Competence already in 2012, but a feasibility study was only concluded in 2017. Finally, Cabinet took a decision in 2020 to approve the transfer with effect from 1 April 2021. Owing to the complexity of the matter and limited time upon the approval, the matter could not be concluded as such and the time for conclusion of the matter was moved to 1 April 2022.

The representative further indicated that the transfer is part of the transformational agenda and the long-term goal is to have Colleges of Agriculture being autonomous and integrated into a post-schooling system. Job security is guaranteed and conditions of service will not change. Academic staff will have access to the broader spectrum of the educational sector as opposed to the current setup where they are working in silos. Further, learners will be able to access NSFAS like other learners in the post-schooling arena.

Workers will continue working at their workplaces although the college will be reporting to the National Department and not Provincial and the transfer will have minimal impact on employees. Colleges will be established as Higher Education Colleges under the *Higher Education Act* by the Minister of DHET owing to their legislative responsibility for the post-school education and training system. Funding and daily administrative processes will be undertaken by the DALRRD through interdepartmental/ministerial protocol and specific policy and regulations. Simply put, DALRRD will be a "caretaker" of colleges to facilitate the process towards autonomy.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER