



MINISTER'S

FOREWORD

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES STIPULATED IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP), THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY ACTION PLAN (APAP), MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND THE REVITALISATION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-PROCESSING VALUE CHAIN.

These objectives are supported by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa's maiden 2018 State of the Nation Address, where he reiterated the importance of agriculture's role in growing the South African economy. He further acknowledged that agriculture made the largest contribution, by a significant margin, to the improved growth of our economy in the second and third quarters of 2017.

As a national public entity responsible for regulating the export of perishable produce, the PPECB plays a pivotal role in creating world-wide confidence in South African produce, and by doing so, supports government's objectives of gaining access to and growing international markets. In further support of government's plan to attract more producers, the PPECB managed to train 167 smallholder farmers through its Development and Transformation Programme.

The National Development Plan identifies the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector as key job drivers with the potential of unlocking growth. Through its Agriculture Export Technologist Programme (AETP), directed at upskilling the youth, the PPECB trained 35 students during the 2017/18 financial year - making them more employable.

Since global food safety is becoming increasingly important, the PPECB has managed to augment its Maximum Residue Level (MRL) programme and can now test for up to 225 actives in its ISO 17025-accredited analytical laboratory.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the PPECB on another successful year and wish the Board, Executive Team and employees well for the coming year.

**MR SENZENI
ZOKWANA, MP**
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES