



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MEDIA STATEMENT

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MINISTER DIDIZA RECEIVES A VISIT FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Today, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza.MP, received a visit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Mr Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen A. AlFadley.

Senior government officials, Agricultural State Entities, and business leaders from both countries joined the Ministers. The purpose of the visit was to deepen agricultural trade and investment between the two countries and boost agricultural production to improve global food security.

The delegation included industry representatives from Saudi which range from livestock, sugar and grains. These possible interest speaks to the need for increased domestic production in these areas.

This visit follow a successful negotiations on the protocol for red meat export which was agreed to last October. Today South African livestock industry can now export of red meat to Saudi Arabia.

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a strategic market for agriculture as it imports around 380 billion Rands (US\$20 billion) of agricultural products a year. South Africa, a net exporter of



agricultural products, has ambitions to expand its domestic production on over two million hectares of currently underutilized land and subsequently increase exports in the coming years. This makes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia a vital partner in deepening trade for the current and future produced in the new lands for all value chains.” Says Minister Didiza

“The engagements with our friends from the Kingdom were deeply encouraging, and we look forward to a fruitful partnership and deeper trade and investment relations amongst our businesses going forward. As a department, we are also grateful to the domestic farming businesses and agribusinesses that joined the engagements today and showcased the high-quality products that South Africa produces and the investment opportunities.” Concluded Didiza.

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Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

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