



SA FARMERS
DEVELOPMENT
Association

*Thriving rural communities
Thriving rural economies*

MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS
DATE: 06 MARCH 2020

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFEDA) has noted the positive comments and commitment made by the Premier of our Province, Honorable Sihle Zikalala, during his 2020 State of The Province Address (SOPA). The premier assured stakeholders in the sugar industry that government is working on finalizing the Sugar Master Plan which will help to preserve jobs and livelihoods that are linked to our sector.

As an organization we welcome the Premier's SOPA and applaud his bold and visionary leadership coupled with a strong resolve to tackle challenges currently faced by our sector. Thus will see the sector becoming a sunrise industry and not declining into economic oblivion.

Indeed, the sugar sector has been struggling, jobs have been lost and small businesses are closing down. We are encouraged that the necessary regulatory framework that will unlock diversification opportunities such as bioethanol, will be expedited and that steps will be take to protect and growth the local sugar industry, thus ensuring the sustainability of the industry and that of our farmers.

The SAFEDA leadership commits to partner with government. We are available to help struggling farmers within the industry with help from our government. We have thus far proved ourselves as an efficient and effective development agent poised to drive radical change in the agricultural, sector and in the sugar industry in particular. We are driven by our vision to see thriving rural communities and the rural economy. We will be engaging our Premier and his government to give more meaning to this partnership.

SAFEDA was established to drive the transformation and sustainability in the sector. We continue to speak for inclusion and decisive support for small-scale and land reform farmers who are a vulnerable group within the industry.

As an organization SAFEDA says **Thuma Mina!**

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