



## **MEDIA STATEMENT: AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE ASSESSORS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**27 March 2019**

Land Bank Insurance Company (LBIC) a subsidiary of Land Bank in partnership with the Walter Sisulu University (WSU) launched its Agricultural Insurance Assessors Development Programme at the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital, Health Resource Centre, on 26 March 2019.

Land Bank has developed a well-structured plan to aid transformation in the agricultural sector and increase the footprint of emerging farmers in the South African agricultural space, including the agricultural insurance sector. This has necessitated the introduction of the Black Broker Development Programme and the Agricultural Insurance Assessors Programme

Land Bank support the entry of previously excluded groups within agriculture to the commercial farming sector and provides developmental support throughout the agriculture value chain and they have done this through the first **Black Broker Development Programme** which was a success as prior to 2016 there were no black brokers of crop insurance in South Africa.

In order to continuously work on achieving the mandate of the Land Bank group, one of LBIC's business objectives is to provide the necessary tools within their scope to support emerging farmers and farming communities. LBIC have therefore developed the **Agricultural Insurance Assessors Programme** to identify and train agricultural economist (or equivalent) graduates in crop insurance assessment protocols to service the agricultural sector.

The programme is being rolled out for the first time in partnership with the WSU in the Eastern Cape. The partnership with the university is located in the province as a result of LBIC's largest emerging farmer projects it insures being in the Eastern Cape. The university also has four campuses across the province which will help with a wider reach for students.

The programme is also being supported by the local communities, which saw the event being graced with the presence of Prince Zanothando Dalindyebo, who also reiterated that this is a good cause as it will provide more opportunities for the people of the region.

*We are grateful for the support we have received from the Land Bank and Land Bank Insurance boards. We believe that the programme will help achieve our objectives and change the South African agricultural landscape, while also creating job opportunities for unemployed youth. ”* said Dini Nondumo, the Executive Manager – Sales & Distribution at LBIC.

The programme is being run at no cost to the students. The program will cover all tuition, study material, accommodation and meals for the duration of their studies. It will run over two-years and will include both in class and in the field practical training. There are currently 20 students on the programme and upon successful completion of the programme the candidates will receive a Certificate in Crop Insurance Assessment, which will be SAQA and Council for Higher Education accredited at an NQF level 5 and 6. The programme and subsequent certification will provide value

add within the field of agriculture, with agronomy and agricultural risk assessment being the main features.

According to Yonela Tukwayo the WSU spokesperson. “Walter Sisulu University is proud to be part of a programme that seeks to change the face of the agricultural insurance industry in South Africa.”



From left : Bennie van Rooy (Acting CEO of Land Bank), Dudu Hlatswayo (Chairperson of Land Bank Insurance Company (LBIC)), Busisiwe Mayaphi (student) Nkcubeko Nodada (student), Maniki Rakgalakane (MD of LBIC) and Dini Nondumo (Executive Manager – Sales & Distribution at LBIC).

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