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## **Land Bank tackles food security and youth participation in the agricultural sector this Mandela Day**

**17 July 2017.** Land Bank employees will be volunteering their 67 minutes to various community organisations across the country this Mandela Day. This is in an effort to drive food security in communities as well as facilitate greater participation in the agricultural sector by South Africa's youth.

The Bank will be helping to set up and improve a number of sustainable food gardens at community organisations such as the Diepsloot Community Centre in Johannesburg, the Angel's Care Centre in Howick, and at the Maggie Losper Shelter in Rustenberg, amongst others. In addition, employees will be utilising their time to educate youth in communities about the opportunities that exist throughout the agricultural value chain and how to access them, including through already established Land Bank initiatives such as its Student Bursary Programme and its support for emerging farmers.

For TP Nchocho, CEO of the Land Bank, Mandela Day represents another opportunity for Land Bank to drive development impact in communities. "Our core mandate at Land Bank is to facilitate economic transformation and social inclusivity in the agricultural sector and an important part of this is being connected to the

Mr M A Moloto (Chairman) Mr T P Nchocho (Chief Executive Officer) Prof A S M Karaan Ms S A Lund  
Ms T T Ngcobo Ms D Motau Ms N Zwane Ms D Hlatshwayo Adv S J H Coetzee Ms M E Makgatho  
Ms G Mtetwa Mr B van Rooy (Chief Financial Officer) Ms K Gugushe (Acting Company Secretary)

communities we serve by further connecting them to opportunities within the agricultural space so they become more self-sustaining. We view our Mandela Day commitments as an extension of this development mandate which we are proud to be part of.”

Land Bank is working to safeguard the country’s food security by making the sector more accessible to marginalised groups such as youth and women. Its heightened focus on supporting black emerging farmers involves partnerships and collaboration to integrate them into established value chains through intermediaries who provide technical support and market access to ensure success. The Bank is also in the process of finalising a youth strategy, which will further guide its approach to facilitating greater participation by young people in the sector.

“At Land Bank we are inspired by the lifetime of service of former president Nelson Mandela to the development of this country. This Mandela Day, we are proud to be able to give back to the communities in which we operate and equally proud to be able to live these values everyday, as we work towards creating greater access to the agricultural sector for more South Africans,” concludes Mr Nchocho.

**Ends**

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