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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

South Africa Appoints a New Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the News

Agriculture in the Economy

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Report Highlights:

On February 26, 2018 Sfiso Nobert Buthelezi was appointed as the new Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). At this stage, Post does not expect widespread changes at DAFF.

South Africa Appoints a New Deputy Minister of Agriculture

On February 26, 2018 Sfiso Nobert Buthelezi was appointed as the new Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). Based on publicly available information, he holds a Diploma in Accounting, Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Economics, Bachelor of Commerce (Honors) Degree in Economics, and Master of Commerce Degree in Economics from the University of Cape Town.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr Buthelezi was the Deputy Minister of Finance. His past appointments include, Chief Operating Officer of Makana Investment Corporation (Pty) Ltd, CEO of the National Gambling Board, and Economic Advisor to the previous South African President Mr. Jacob Zuma at the Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Government. He has also held various directorship and board roles, and got placement with the Central Bank of Canada (<http://whoswho.co.za/sfiso-buthelezi-2247>).

Implications

The appointment of Deputy Minister Buthelezi is part of the wider cabinet reshuffle that was undertaken by the recently installed South African President Cyril Ramaphosa following former President Jacob Zama's resignation. President Ramaphosa indicated that the new appointments and changes were intended to ensure that national government is better equipped to implement the mandate of promoting growth, development and transformation as stated in the State of the Nation Address ([Click here to download the speech](#)). In addition, the changes were aimed at balancing the need for stability with the need for leadership and economic renewal in the country.

Based on Deputy Minister Buthelezi's background in economics, finance and accounting, it is expected that he would add value to the financial management and governance at DAFF. However, there are no indications or publicly available information that the new Deputy Minister has any agricultural background and experience. In addition, Minister Senzeni Zokwana was retained and not changed as the Minister of Agriculture, hence widespread changes at DAFF are not expected. Post will continue monitoring the changes within the Ministry and their impact thereof.