

## MINISTER DIDIZA MEETS SAAGA IN TZANEEN



The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Thoko Didiza today met with the South African Avacodo Growers Association (SAAGA) at Magoebaskloof Hotel. Minister Didiza discussed a range of issues with the representative of SAAGA led by its Chief Executive Officer, Derik Donkin. The minister was interested in transformation within the farming community, the export markets and the transfer of skills to farm workers. The minister was joined by Greater Tzaneen Municipality Executive Committee member responsible for economic development, Cllr Sannie Tiba and Cllr. Leon Matita of Ward 07.

After the meeting, the minister, and her entourage visited Mangeke Estate, a 275 hecta Avacodo farm in Magoebaskloof owned by Peter Malungani of PEU Group.

SAAGA said that the Limpopo Province currently produces 48 % of all avacados in South Africa. South Africa produces between 80 000 to 120 000 tons of avocado every year.

Between 45 and 50% of South Africa's avacados are exported and 10 - 15% is processed into oil and pulp.

The rest is sold locally. The main importing countries of South African avacados are Europe - particularly the Netherlands, France and Spain, the UK, and the Baltic states at 95%. Small volumes are exported to Africa, the Middle East and Hong Kong. South African industries and government are negotiating market access to the USA, mainland China and Japan. Currently, strict phytosanitary requirements limit access to these markets. Peru, as another southern hemisphere producer, is South Africa's most serious competitor, both in volume and timing, for the supply of avacados into northern hemisphere markets.