

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTION

Honorable Agnes Limbo (Signature):.....

I give notice that on **Thursday, 5th October 2017** I shall ask the **Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable John Mutorua**, the following questions regarding government subsidies and marketing services to small crop producers in the northern communal areas:

In its quest to bring government services to the people, the Ministry has established and staffed agricultural development centers in all the constituencies in the northern communal areas. Amongst others, the extension technicians at these centers and offices provide and or facilitate the provision of government subsidized ploughing services. The Ministry has also established fresh produce hubs under the Agro Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA), which buys fresh produce from the farmers and sell to the retailers and individuals. Thus my questions are as follows:

- 1) Why is the provision of ploughing services and distribution of seeds not done earlier in season?
- 2) Government has availed only one tractor per constituency, which contributes to delayed provision of ploughing services. Does the Ministry have a plan to increase the number of tractors per constituency?
- 3) Small horticultural producers do not receive government subsidies and there is widespread dissatisfaction with prices offered by the Agro Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA). Will the Ministry consider extending input subsidies to horticultural producers?
- 4) Considering that AMTA was established to serve the interest of local producers, how does AMTA charge retailers and individuals in relation to prices paid to the producers?

I so move.