

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MEC FOR READ, MS MANKETSI TLHAPE,
MPL AT THE THIRD BOKONE BOPHIRIMA AGRICULTURAL
GROWTH AND INVESTMENT SHOW TO BE HELD AT KGORA
FARMER TRAINING CENTRE, MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT**

DATE: TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

Program Director

Honourable Premier of Bokone Bophirima, Rre S.O.R Mahumapelo

Members of Executive Council present here today

Members of the Diplomatic Corps in our midst

House of Traditional Leaders le Magosi a rona

Kgosi Shole of Ramatlabama

Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality

Mayor of Mahikeng Local Municipality

National Departments Delegates

Provincial Government Administrative Heads

Exhibitors

Farming Community

Distinguished Guests

Media Houses

Ladies and Gentlemen

Bagaetsho, Good Morning and welcome to the 2017, 3rd Annual Bokone Bophirima Agricultural Growth and Investment Show.

I can assure you that this is the biggest fun week in the Mahikeng area and I am thrilled that it is still one of the most anticipated and well attended shows on our annual community calendar. Today's event is so full of wholesome activities for everyone to enjoy, it won't be easy deciding what to do first.

Programme Director, the country had to deal with the devastating effects of drought for the past years, which resulted in Bokone Bophirima province holding a drought dialogue. Government, organized agriculture and financial institutions had to develop short, medium and long term strategies to mitigate drought.

As a Department we organized prayer meetings and observed cultural rituals to ask for heavens to open. As it is written in 1 Corinthians 3, chapter 6-9 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building".

Ladies and Gentlemen, Indeed as the farming community we are truly blessed. That is why we are saying "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.

Bagaetsho the department is hosting the 3rd Bokone Bophirima Agricultural and Investment Show (BBAGIS) under the Theme: "BBAGIS" as a necessary platform for radical socio-economic transformation.

As a Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development we are hosting the show with the aim to create an enabling platform for government, private sectors, farmers, entrepreneurs, service providers, students and pupils to show case agricultural capabilities, pivoting the Province on agricultural competitive and comparative advantage through the entire value chain (i.e. farm to fork).

The objectives of the BBAGIS are:

- To provide a platform for producers to showcase their produce, suppliers of production inputs to display their products
- To allow government institutions to communicate to the general, public policies as well as services rendered by government
- To serve as platform for various role players to network and exchange information
- To serve as a vehicle to reposition, rebrand and renew the Bokone Bophirima through agriculture.

Bagaetsho there is an African proverb that says “I am because you are” this makes departmental work easy if we join hands to ensure better life

for all. The Department is open minded and calls upon farming community to ensure sustenance of "BBAGIS" by becoming active participants and ambassadors. One of the five concrete, namely Saamwerk - Saamtrek of the Rebranding, Repositioning and Renewal philosophy calls for collaborative efforts by us all.

Bokone Bophirima Government, through the Honourable Premier, has remained committed to the holistic development of the Agricultural sector as you know that one of our first five concretes is Agriculture Culture and Tourism which call us to put more efforts and work hard to ensure that our challenges such as poverty and unemployment are met through this sector.

An effective government functions as an engine of facilitation, and through these and other initiatives this government has sought to reinvigorate our all-important agricultural sector. The ultimate goal is to ensure that our people have access to safe, nutritious and affordable food, to sustain dietary needs and nutritional preferences.

As we turn our attention to the future, I am hopeful that more of our youth will be encouraged to explore and exploit the benefits of farming and agriculture.

In closing I would like to leave you with this thought from someone who was obviously very wise, who said, "Once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher, but three times every day you need a farmer!"

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all who have contributed to ensuring that this year's Agriculture show delivers all of the tasty foods, produce, crafts, displays, music and entertainment that we have come to expect, and much more!

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all those who work tirelessly within our agricultural sector. Your efforts to supply high quality produce, meats and other local fare to the residents of Bokone Bophirima are greatly appreciated.

Bagaetsho ka tsothetse le tlileng go di bona mobekeng eno. Keaitse gore lo tlai tumelela, the 2017, 3rd Bokone Bophirima Agricultural Growth and Investment Show and I wish you a safe and sensational week!

Kealeboga!

