

**MEC'S KEY ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE HARVEST DAY
CELEBRATIONS**

FRIDAY, 20 JULY 2018

WATERFORD FARM, MAREETSANE (NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT)

10H00

HON. MANKETSI TLHAPE, MPL

MEC: RURAL, ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ke tsaya tshono eno go dumedisa Kgosi Motshegare le Magosi a rona, baeteledipele ba mafapha a farologaneng, and Ward Councillors present here today.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Management of the Department of READ as well as their dedicated team of officials; I equally note and acknowledge your presence and support. All Departmental strategic partners' representatives here...;

Kemedi Ya go tloga DAFF Mme Bafedile Bopape;

Kemedi ya dingaka tsa rona tsa setso mmogo le baeteledi pele ba dikereke tse di farologaneng;

All exhibitors who have supported our activity and brought in a variety of their products for display;

Ke dumedisa gape bang ba letsatsi leno e leng, balemirui ba rona;

Bobegakgang botlhe boo bo tshotseng sebaka sa go nna le rona gompiano, ke a lo dumedisa;

Mme ke re go baagi botlhe...Dumelang!

Bagaetsho ke boitumelo jo bogolo go kopana le lona bogolo segolo balemirui go tloga mo didikeng tsotlhe tsa profense ya rona.

Re kopana ka nako eo re solofelang gore bontsi jwa rona bo na le monyenyo mo difatlhegong ka go nne ke nako ya Thobo!

Fa lo ka gopola sentle, bagaetsho, Moletlo ono o setse o le mo ngwageng wa bobedi jaanong re o dira mme maikaelelo a yona ke go leboga Modimo le badimo ka thobo eo re e boneng.

Bagaetsho, it is customary in the Agricultural sector that at the end of the season farmers will have "Harvest Days". It is common among the Batswana People too that at the end of the cropping season they (farmers and farming communities) give thanks to the Ancestors and the Almighty for any harvest gained/accrued.

It is against this background that this Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development and farmers have come back to thank the Almighty for his love and mercy towards the farming community in our Province and South Africa as a whole. The Religious fraternity led by Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal leaders as well as Christian leaders of different denominations are present to also assist in this event. It is also culturally correct to thank our forefathers and mothers for the same, Dingaka tsa Setso le bone ba teng go netefatsa gore re fetisa sentle ditebogo tsa rona.

Jaanong bagaetsho, life is never easy in the life of a farmer. Motho mongwe o kile a re ga gona motho yo o nang le TUMELO (–FAITH) jaaka molemi. Loeto lwa molemi bagaetsho ke la go solofela. Molemi tsenya peo mo mmung ka tsholofelo ya gore e tla ata mme go nne le dijo. Tsholofelo le tumelo eo e nnang mo moleming ke gore pula e ne mme maemo a loapi a nne sentle go fitlhelela temo e atlega mme thobo e nna ntle! No farmer has control over this situation I am referring to now. What you can do is to sit and hope for the best. Have FAITH that your spend will generate a further income. Ke ka moo re bonang go tshwanela gore kwa bokhutlong jwa leoto la go jala le go roba re tshwanetse gore re leboge. Le rona re ke re re Ebenezer....o tsamaile le rona go fitlha fa!

Bagaetsho, the 2030 vision speaks of the inclusivity and integration of rural areas, through successful land reform, job creation and poverty alleviation, and places Agriculture as the driving force behind this vision.

The National Development Plan identifies key catalytic interventions which include “expansion of irrigated agriculture, supplemented by dry-land production where feasible. In areas of low economic potential, the NDP speaks of the importance of basic services such as basic education, health care, basic services and social security to support the development of human capital.

As the primary economic activity in rural areas, the NDP sees agriculture as having the potential to create close to 1 million new jobs by 2030, a significant contribution to the overall employment target.

We are continually striving to improve the 50% inclusion of the designated group. We cannot deny the fact that these are previously marginalised groups who are mainly still beset with challenges of access to land. We are eagerly awaiting better outcome in as far as the discussions around amending Section 25 of the Constitution that deals with expropriation of land without compensation is concerned. We hope that this process result in a way that increases agricultural production and improves food security.

Lefapha le la READ motsamiasa tiro le ne la tla ka lenaneo la Crop Massification programme. So this programme is an intervention by the State to support both Smallholder and Commercial Black Farmers to put back arable Land back into production. This support comes in a variety of ways i.e. crop production inputs, technical advice, storage facilities, marketing and provision of mechanisation packages.

As a Department we are saying that through the Crop Massification Programme that our provincial economy must be enhanced. We need to create sustainable projects and jobs thereof.

Re motlotlo re lefapha go itsese baagi gore Smallholder and commercial farmers in Bokone Bophirima Province who received assistance in the form of crop production inputs in 2017/18 financial year are busy harvesting maize, sunflower, Groundnuts and Beans in a total of 16 132 hectares.

Dipalo palo tseno багаetsho ke tsa temo ya didika tsotlhe tsa profense ya rona ya Bokone Bophirima.

Maikaelelo a rona jaaka lefapha ke gore re tshegetse balemi mo ngwageng wa 2018/2019 wa ditshete, re leme go feta 14 000ha. Tshegetso eno ya rona e tshwanetse go ungwela balemi ba le 474 mo profenseng ka kakaretso. Re beetse thoko bokana ka R50,5m go netefatsa gore seno se a direga.

Bagetsho it is important not to shift our focus on issues relating to food security in the Province. As we do this, we would be strengthening solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment.

We need to have a community that is encouraged and keen in agricultural activities in general and planting of fallow lands in particular as an answer to Agrarian Revolution. This will contribute to their participation in the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative, a government programme that is used as an intervention for the Food and Nutrition Security Drive.

As a department, we have multiple programmes including the North West agricultural fund, which is keen to ensure that our efforts towards economic growth through agriculture are realised. We have also released notification calling for farmers to send through applications for funding. We also encourage our farmer to participate in the value and not only to concentrate on primary production.

Jaanong bagaetsho a re tsenyeng dikopo. Lefapha le tshwanetse go ikarabela ke ka moo go nang le ditlhokego mo dikopong tsotlhe. Re eletsa gore balemi-rui ba ka nna pelo telele mme re dire mmogo. Ke yone fela tsela e le nngwe ya go netefatsa gore re anamisa tshegetso ya rona sentle mme balemirui ba bona dithuso tse di tlhokegang.

A re tsweleleng ka kgwebo ya temo-thuo bagaetsho. Ke yone tsela e puso e e lemogile fa e na le tshono e kgolo ya go godisa ikonomi le go lwantsha bohuma ...

Mmogo a re tsweletseng bolemi-rui pele..

Ke a leboga...

Nelwang ke Pula bagaetsho!!!