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**Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development**
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MEDIA RELEASE

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MEC DESBO MOHONO GRANTS UNDERPRIVILEGED ASPIRING AGRICULTURE STUDENTS BURSARIES.

Mahikeng-Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development Department MEC, Desbo Mohono has granted bursaries to fourteen (14) qualifying students, to study towards a Diploma in Mixed Agriculture at NQF level 6 in Potchefstroom College of Agriculture and Agriculture in Irrigation at Taung Agricultural College which are state-owned agricultural colleges in the North West Province.

The colleges, through the department, remain committed to skills development, tasked with training and producing agricultural technicians to serve communities is an essential drive of economic growth in the province.

One of the bursary recipients is Botsile Setlhedi (20) from Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality.

Botsile was raised by his father who is a single parent and currently unemployed in a rural village of Ganyesa.

“My father has to support me and five (5) of my siblings and it has been a challenge for him because he does not have a stable job. When the opportunity came for me to go study agriculture, I had to grab it with both hands as crop science is my passion and it is fulfilling to me to know that in the future I will be contributing to feeding the nation, ” elated Botsile said.

Ashley Zandile Dladla (18) from Pudumoe, also a bursary recipient had lost hope to further her studies.

But her good final matric examination results enabled her to meet the Taung Agricultural College criteria to register as one of their students.

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“I am ecstatic to be one of the beneficiaries,” Dladla said

“I am hoping to make a big difference in the male dominated industry and show female young people that agriculture is a sector that needs women in numbers. Thank you to the department for recognising the need for underprivileged, hardworking students to study and pursue a career in agriculture”

MEC Desbo Mohono wished all fourteen (14) students a fulfilling 3 years of studying.

“I applaud the bursary recipients who well deserve this opportunity. Let us not lose sight of the importance of initiatives like this in addressing the province’s skills shortages as this will continue to have unfavourable consequences on our ability to deliver on key socio-economic issues critical for development of the North West, if not countered.

“I encourage them to remain steadfast in ensuring that they complete their diploma on record time as this will allow them time to study further if they wish to do so,” MEC Mohono said.

She also expressed gratitude to the families of the youngsters for allowing them to empower themselves as education is one of the key to uplifting communities and addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

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