



**Agriculture &  
Rural Development**

Department:  
**Agriculture and Rural Development**  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NOTES FROM**

**MEC DESBO MOHONO DEPARTMENT OF**

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DURING THE NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF**

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**CANNIBIS LEKGOTLA HELD AT THE NORTH**

**WEST UNIVERSITY(MAHIKENG CAMPUS)**

**IN MMABATHO**

**NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT**

**ON THE,14 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Programme Director**

**Premier of the North West Province**

**All Executive Members present and DG Mogotlhe**

**Head of the Department**

**Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor-NWU**

**Benji Dimakatso Moji-Cannabis Value Chain**

**Ras Gareth Prince- Cannabis Development Council SA**

**Ras PG Mpolokeng-NWU**

**Ras Kora- Sustainable Cultural Practices**

**Dr. Moorole-NWU**

**Dr. A Chabalala-Research, Development and Innovation**

**Dr. Blessed Okole-CSIR**

**Dr. Jaftha and Ms Rakgatlha-DALRRD**

**Dr. Motheo Keotsiwe-NWU**

**Dr. Khotso Ramachaela-NWU**

Thank you for this opportunity to engage with Scholars, traditionalists, farmers, Retailers, builders, marketers and of course my fellow politicians. I am thrilled to have managed to bring all those who love their cannabis under one roof irrespective of their societal standing. I am quite perplexed that we have managed to bring those who are regarded as smokers and those that are non-smokers in one gathering. That's history on its own.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Doctors, Professor's and our Premier, this is hands on deck indeed and a dream come true for people of the North West province, for they two deserve to benefit from the value chain of this herb. As government, we always appreciate the direct, considered and constructive approach that higher institutions of learning takes in responding to the challenges facing our country. That is why we saw it fit as the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to rope in North West University in particular looking and their research output, which is amongst there with the best in the entire country. I am humbled for heeding our call and to walk this journey together. To the Vice Chancellor and the Deputy Vice Chancellor not forgetting Dr. Motheo, we are really honored to be partners in this Cannabis Lekgotla.

Last year as the department we held our very first Cannabis Webinar in Potchefstroom. I must say it was a success; we then sat down and agreed that this year we will pitch the lekgotla very high by roping in the North West University. Amongst the findings of last year's gathering, we realized that we have lot of farmers that are already doing well in their respective farms by planting this herb and many of them are amongst us today.

The theme for this Lekgotla is “**Breaking the barriers, towards the cannabis agenda in the North West province**”.

I am glad that we took that route of breaking those barriers because it means tapping into the unknown realm, while finding solutions for our people and most importantly our farmers.

The Cannabis Lekgotla will focus entirely on the community knowledge and lived experiences on the cultivation, use and possession of Cannabis. As the Department we had a burning desire for our farmers to also tap into this gravy train. Our aim and intention is to make it easier for them to farm with the holy herb. Many are wondering why this Lekgotla? Answers are plenty but I will be scant and direct:

- We want to establish a Cannabis Socio Economic Provincial Strategy, with clear plans and execution.
- At the end of this three day engagements we want our farmers to be able to go and explore inclusive entrepreneurial opportunities.
- This Lekgotla also aims to review and interrogate the impact of previous colonial and apartheid legislations laws in the suppression of Cannabis plant towards the subjection of local communities in poverty.

- Lastly the main purpose of this Lekgotla is to find the priority of learning and research programmes as a key priority to bridge the unemployment gap and poverty in our communities.

Above are factors that led to this Lekgotla, although there are many others that led us to be here today, Honorable Premier. As a department we provide a stark reminder that every avenue to create employment and fight poverty must be pursued, allowing business to grow, emerge and thrive, while also using the capabilities of the state to create a conducive environment for our farmers. We are also clear that we need to work together, as business, institutions of higher learning and government, as social partners and as society to undertake these vital tasks.

Ladies and Gentlemen without taking any puff let me pass this baton to the honorable **Premier of the North West province, Honorable Bushy Kaobitsa Mape** who embraced our Lekgotla. We are thankful Premier for heeding our call besides many commitments under your watch.

**KE A LBOGA.I THANK YOU.**

**MEC-DESBO MOHONO**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**