



## agriculture & rural development

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Att: ALL EDITORS  
All Journalists  
All Media Houses**

**Date: Thursday, 28 September 2023**

## **NORTH WEST BEEKEEPERS PARTICIPATE AT INTERNATIONAL APICULTURAL CONGRESS**

**Mahikeng** - In an effort to grow, promote and expose local beekeepers to the world markets, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development recently sent two beekeepers from the Province to attend the 48<sup>th</sup> Apimondia International Apicultural Congress which was held from the 04<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of September in Santiago, Chile.

The congress afforded all role players in the sector with an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with internationally renowned leaders and experts in evidence based practice such as research, challenges and commercial opportunities that are out there in beekeeping industry.

Themed "*Sustainable Beekeeping, from the south of the world*", the congress also provided the agricultural sector and government an opportunity to learn from one another, discuss market access and applicable standards, exhibit products for the purpose of gaining market access, engaging in scientific discussions on beekeeping and the enhancement of technology.

Topics discussed during the five day congress included the following scientific programmes i.e. apitherapy, bee health, bee biology, beekeeping economy, rural development and technology as well as quality.

MEC Desbo Mohono said she is pleased to have attended this international congress in Chile and that the Department has organized for beekeepers to also attend. "There is a lot that one has learned from this congress but more than anything I am happy that we managed to take few of our beekeepers to participate at this world event. This has given them an international exposure that I believe they needed. I am now expecting them to share and implement the various methods and innovations to yield better results and increase honey production and further explore export opportunities that are there.

"The beekeeping sector plays a major role in the rural socio-economic development and environmental conservation. It is a source of food, it can be used for medicinal purposes, tourism and raw material for various industries and it can generate a good income for the people in the rural areas," said MEC Mohono.

Mr Lucas Radise from Brits in the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality is one of the beekeepers who attended the congress. He said he was happy to have attended this congress.

"I am pleased about the opportunity and I want to thank the Department for affording us an opportunity to gain international exposure. We were able to network and exchange ideas with fellow beekeepers from other countries. I must say that there is a lot that we have learned. The exhibitions brought a lot of business partnership initiatives for future export and import of beekeeping related merchandises," Radise expressed.

The exhibitions showcased the latest technological beekeeping equipment and tools from various companies and organizations from around the world as well the latest trends and methods in the beekeeping industry that can be incorporated within the North West Province.

### **Captions**

**20230908\_130718.jpg** – MEC Desbo Mohono together with Head of Department Mr Thupi Mokhatla, officials and beekeepers of the North West Province Beekeeping Association (NWPBA) at the ApiExpo of 48th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in Santiago, Chile.

**20230905\_103028.jpg** - MEC Desbo Mohono facilitating the African Round Table Discussion on African Beekeeping Development at the 48th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in Santiago, Chile.

### **Issued by:**

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