



agriculture &  
rural development  
Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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## ADDRESS

**BY MEC DESBO MOHONO NORTH WEST  
PROVINCE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DURING  
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF UNEMPLOYED  
AGRICULTURAL GRADUATE PROGRAM  
HELD AT ALEX HOLM  
POTCHEFSTROOM  
ON THE, 01<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**Programme Director**

**Head of Department**

**SMS Members and Colleges Principal**

**Farmers association and other stakeholders**

**All Parents and Guardians Present**

**Youth in Agriculture**

**All Media Houses present**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would like to ferry my warm greetings to everybody who is here to celebrate this big day in our college. Ladies and Gentlemen this advancement ceremony is the last chapter of its kind in this 6<sup>th</sup> administration. As we have ushered new cohort of students for the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> administration, we do so knowing that we have come a long way in making sure that our child's education has been prioritized in the past three full years of their stay in our institution. Indeed today is the right time to narrate a good story to both parents and guardians of all the 55 graduants who are going to be conferred with diplomas in mixed farming.

This group was initially enrolled as the new regiment of about 94 energetic and promising students for the 2021 academic year. Now as fate will have it, today 55 will be rewarded and given what is due to them.

Bagaetsho, government has made agriculture a priority for the past thirty years of our democracy and it is pleasing for us to witness the injection of yet another group of young agricultural professionals into our system, the increase in the number of qualified farming professionals should also translate into improved quality of their service more especially in the rural and underserved areas of the North West Province. I am also mindful of the fact that farming is a theoretical and practical profession and without the support and dedication of both the department and the college staff, our children's dream of training as qualified professionals would never have been realised, and for that we are humbled.

Lefapha le semeletse le go netefatsa fa ngwaga le ngwaga le fatlhosa dialogane tse e leng gore kamoso bat la kgona go itirela mme ba ikele ka nosi jaaka balemirui tota. Lefapha le rotloetsa gape thata gore BoMme ba tsene mo go tsa temo-thuo ka makatla a namane go nne re lemogile gore bontsi jwa basetsana ba rona ba na le bokgoni le botswerere jwa go ka emelana le dikgwetlho tsa temo-thuo ka kakaretso.

Today we have a total number of 55, 27 (37%) of whom are males and 30 (46%) females. Now that speaks volumes about our plans and intentions of luring and enticing our girl child to this sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the provision of quality farming by trained professionals is a job that requires conscious people who know that they are not in the profession only because they need a job but also to realise that they must serve humanity and be dedicated to producing food timeously as key drivers to their profession. As farmers you play a critical role in the realisation of our mandate to fight food insecurity at all costs.

Our country and our province needs more supply of food to sustain and enhance our development and create the necessary capacity for the state to be able to deliver as a developmental state.

We as government believe that the training, particularly of our young people is critical if we are to achieve our goal of a better life for all. It is in this context that government is making a deliberate effort to intensify education and training programmes. Gradually, step by step, we are realising our dream of making **farming fashionable to all our people.**

As I turn unto our graduates, let me remind all of you that as you go out to start **a car called "real life", I plead with all of you** to have empathy in your profession please.

**Empathy in farming** is best described not by words but by actions that as a professional show in the farm and outside of the working environment.

**Empathy** is a student farmer working over the weekend and forgetting to eat or to even go to the bathroom because the cow is in labour and you have to help out.

**Empathy** is a farmer who learns to just be silent and be in the moment with animals who just needs someone to be with.

**Empathy** is a student farmer who still believes that it will still rain while he or she continues to prepare the soil well in advance. That is empathy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do believe we have produced the very kind of students who have empathy for the profession and most importantly who will carry the name of the institutions with aplomb in their different destinations.

I would like to say thank you to the Principal of both Colleges and his staff for really standing the test of time in producing the quality in front of us. They have taught, developed, and guided these students into fully fledged individuals but not just ordinary farmers.

Once more let me also acknowledge the patience and the resilience from all parents and guardians throughout the three years of their children's journey.

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a special day for our graduates and their families and the College and I thank you for having allowed me to share this day with you. I am confident that you will make your mark within this group of young South African patriots by serving our people with dignity and respect. Let us go out into our society and serve humanity with dedication, dignity, respect, selflessness, humility and be exemplary.

**Ke a leboga - I thank you!**

**MEC Desbo Mohono**

**North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**