



MEDIA STATEMENT

Att : ALL EDITORS

Media Houses

Date: Friday, 15 March 2024

MEC DESBO MOHONO HANDS OVER AUCTION KRAALS TO BAKWENA BA MOGOPA TRUST

MEC Desbo Mohono officially launched and handed over the Mogopa Livestock Auction Pens on Thursday, 14 March 2024 in Mogopa Village near Ventersdorp. The village, under the jurisdiction of Bakwena Ba Mogopa Trust will use the pens with seven other villages within its vicinity. The project is fully equipped with a security fence, office and ablution facility, borehole sitting and drilling, auction kraals, pavilion, eight-sided cattle scale and a solar system.

The pens established in 2023 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) are an intervention to link livestock smallholder farmers to formal markets, meet the increased demand for functional marketing infrastructure and to serve as a deterrent to current and prospective livestock speculators.

"We are excited as farmers in JB Marks Municipality to have kraals nearer to us. In the past we had to spend money on transportation and other logistics to ensure that livestock got to auctions that are always far from our area. Jobs have been created through the construction of these pens, families, and the communities around Mogopa will continue to benefit from the launch. From now on I will be part of the farmers that take care of this project that we have been supported with" said Humphrey Motswatswe a smallholder farmer from Ga-Motlatla Village.

A local bonsmara stud breeder said the commitment displayed by the department in empowering black farmers is amazing. He added that bringing the much-needed auction kraals closer to farmers who use auctions as a market will relieve them from the strain and challenge of risking their livestock not being bought but spent monies on logistics or being exposed to possible theft due to trading their animals at distant auctions.

A guaranteed opening special offered to sellers by the department saw farmers not paying a commission and assisted with logistics to have their livestock at the auction. "The ten percent commission charged was paid by the department to the auctioneer. The monies saved can be used by farmers for other needs such as fodder, medication, etc. We are aware of the challenges faced by farmers during auctions; hence we saw it befitting to fully support and encourage farmers to participate in this auction that will see them using these facilities in future to sustain their businesses, boost the local economy and increasing the household disposal income that will curb food insecurity in Mogopa" explained MEC Desbo Mohono.

To support previously disadvantaged business owners in the agricultural sector, the Ga-Mogopa Livestock Auction Committee contracted a reputable black auctioneer registered with the South African Institute of Auctioneers. Boitshenolo Auctioneers performed auctioneering services during auction sales of pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle. In addition, strict bio-security measures were followed by the Veterinary Services Directorate to ensure that all livestock adhered to the required health protocols and were disease-free. The three auction pens of Ganyesa, Khunwana, and Mogopa are part of the MEC Mohon's pronouncement during the 2023/2024 budget speech.

IMG 1235: MEC Desbo Mohono addressing farmers, buyers and sellers at the Mogopa Village Livestock Auction launch and handover.

IMG 1236: Strict bio-security measures were followed to ensure livestock met the required health and safety protocols.

IMG 1237: The auction pens will benefit Mogopa and seven other villages within the area.

ends ## Issued by the Communication Services Directorate

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