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## **CHIEF DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES**

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# **Media Release**

## **NW FARMERS ALL SET FOR A NEW CROPPING SEASON**

**Wednesday, 19 October 2016**

**Manamolela:** Farmers in the North West province are ready to hit the ground running. This follows the department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) launching the 2016 cropping season. Led by Premier Supra Mahumapelo and READ MEC Manketsi Tlhape, the launch was set to provide a platform for government to debut the planting season and to announce its assistance to subsistence farmers in the province. About 500 farmers from Tswaing local municipality assembled to witness the event held at Manamolela village on 19 October 2016.

The READ department jointly with the national Department of Rural Development and Land Reform will spend R38 million on Crop Massification programme for the 2016/17 financial year. Each farmer is set to receive crop inputs for both Sunflower and Maize (Seed, Fertilizer, Chemicals and fuel) for 50hectares of land each. This is equivalent to R350, 000.00 spend on each farmer.

Beneficiaries Ms Lydia Setlhare and Mr Badirwang Lekgetho who have been in farming for over a decade are grateful at the support. Setlhare said government has

been doing a lot to help farmers and urged her colleagues to begin to do things for themselves. She said the rain received also motivates them to prepare for a cropping season hoping for a better harvest. Lekgetho said it was good that government was proceeding with support despite drought. "We trust that this year is better than the previous one and we are happy that government has come back to offer its much needed assistance," he concluded

240 farmers across the province are set to benefit from this provincial initiative. In all, the Letsema Le Bolotse 2016 cropping season programme covers 10 000 hectares of land.

Speaking at the ceremony MEC Manketsi Tlhape encouraged farmers to yearn to grow to greater heights. She said assistance is meant to give them a start with an anticipation to have them grow to commercial level. She explained that Letsema le Bolotse was to urge farmers not to expect government to be lone contributors, but for farmers to be key partners in growing agriculture and making it a key economic factor in the province. She further urged the farmers to use silos for grain storage.

Premier Supra Mahumapelo lauded the department initiative and emphasised that the Manamolela community and other local communities needed it. Premier said it was imperative for the province to be robust in its Villages, Townships and small dorpies. He further said he was hopeful for more rain and more opportunity for produce and as this was going to create more jobs.

The department entered into service level agreement with beneficiaries. It is hoped that farmers would embrace the agreement which truss beneficiaries to cease 10% for storage.

Meanwhile, Letsema le bolotse launch was coupled with a rain prayer ceremony which was attended by Dikgosi, Local mayor and councillors, church denominations,

youth and women groups' as well traditional healers. Mme Susan Moshe, a Moroka led the rain ritual. It is hoped that with all these efforts there will be more rain to give life to the support provided to farmers.

**Photos:**

0169: Farmers and community members in Manamolela came in numbers to attend the prayer day and Letsema le Bolotse launch.

5965: Premier Mahumapelo and MEC Tlhape handing over some inputs to farmers

**## ends ##**

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