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## **CHIEF DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES**

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# **Media Release**

## **Young farmer wins it for Bokone Bophirima**

**Wednesday, 31 August 2016**

**Mahikeng:** Nthabiseng Kgobokoe a young farmer from Mahikeng in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District has once more upheld the pride of Bokone Bophirima during the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Female Entrepreneur Awards (FEA) held at The Ranch Protea in Polokwane, Limpopo. The awards are aimed at rewarding the efforts and contribution of women, youth and people with disabilities in matters of food security, job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation and they are part and parcel of an effort in acknowledging and rewarding women entrepreneurs during the Women's Month and beyond.

Nthabiseng of the Batswana Farms and Training endeared herself to the judges as she was declared the winner in the Best Subsistence Producer during the competition and she described herself as free a spirited, inquisitive, adventurous young woman who is wholly committed to her trade. She developed interest in farming in 2010 when she was intrigued by what she saw at various agricultural shows she visited then but really got involved in 2013 when the Batswana Farms and Training was registered. Her career in farming has blossomed since then.

The farm which is duly youth owned focuses on mixed farming; that is livestock and horticulture. It also offers informal training. They keep dopper sheep, boer goats and simbra cattle as well as fresh produce. The farm supplies the local retail stores as well as the informal sector of hawkers.

Nthabiseng was one of the 52 finalists in this year's national competition where all winners from all 09 provinces converge to vie for the national prize after winning in the same categories in the respective provincial award competitions. For her efforts she went home with R150 000 in cash. The ultimate overall winner of the competition was Venecia Janse from the Eastern Cape.

Nthabiseng visibly humbled, said was attributing her success to the team's hard work as well as the support she has been receiving from the department's extension services, management as well as her family. She entered the competition well prepared with the belief and confidence that she was going to win and her accolades have affirmed her commitment and encouraged her more. It has opened up other avenues for further development and expansion as she intends re-investing her prize money in the expansion of the farm.

In her congratulatory message, MEC Manketsi Tlhape said although the department was aiming for much more this year, she was content with Nthabiseng's win and that it would encourage other female entrepreneurs particularly among the youth to work hard in their entrepreneur endeavours.

Manketsi Tlhape expressed that the DAFF Female Entrepreneur Awards are a befitting gesture to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the women's march and said it was an honour to add its voice towards the difference made by women of 1956.

MEC Tlhape went on to say Nthabiseng's win further indicated government's intention to uplift previously disadvantaged women from all spheres and this was being intensified. She encouraged other women to take heed from Nthabiseng's win that started from humble beginnings and urged them to hop into the agricultural train as a business venture and be part of ensuring food security.

**Picturesque:**

**3678: Nthabiseng Kgobokoe receives her prize money from the dignitaries**

**3732: MEC Manketsi Tlhape congratulates Nthabiseng on her Award-winning the Best Subsistence Producer category**

**## ends ##**

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