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Media Release

PASSION FOR FARMING EARNS YOUNG ENTEPRENEURS EXPEDITION ABROAD

Tuesday, 17 January 2017

Ramatlabama: North West's award winning female farmer will be off to Kenya for a cutting edge exposure of the sector. Ms Nthabiseng Kgobokoe who won the 2016 Provincial and National Subsistence Producer Female Entrepreneur Awards will undertake a trip which forms part of the prize for her national win. The Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) and DAFF (Department of Forestry and Fisheries) hosted an official send-off ceremony on Monday, 16 January 2016.

As part of the visit to Kenya, Ms Nthabiseng Kgobokoe will visit renowned farmers to get more exposure with regard to agricultural production. She would also get an opportunity to engage and network with the Agricultural marketers, exporters and processors.

"I appreciate the support from government. I will be on a learning trip to Kenya and will come and plough back to my community of Bokone-Bophirima Province," this was a statement by Ms Kgobokoe, speaking to the other farmers after receiving her

trip package, as sponsored by Sakata Seeds, the reputable vegetable and flower seeds company.

Ms Kgobokoe further added that her hard work and determination paid off. "I took my life savings to start this business, although I had a promising start in the beginning, I also experienced a loss of 90% mutton production stock. Despite the circumstances, I could not give up because of my passion for farming. I worked hard but I must say that the rewards are also just beautiful," she added.

Ms Nthabiseng Kgobokoe works from her farm in Thorndale, Buhrmansdrif. In 2013 she registered a private company known as Batswana Farms & Training (Pty) Ltd. Her livestock include goats, cattle and sheep. Her vegetable produce include lettuce, spinach, carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, broad beans and butternuts. The vegetable side has been registered as 'Merogo Ya Mmakgonthe', which means "Vegetables of distinct quality!"

The Head of Department, Dr Poncho Mokaila, who commended a message of support on behalf of the Hon. MEC Manketsi Tlhape wished the farmer well in her trip, due at the beginning of March 2017. He said the role of Women remains central in Food Security; and women participation in agricultural sector is growing at a massive pace.

Dr Mokaila said it was important to note that objectives of the Female Entrepreneur Awards programme "are consistent with the Vision of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, which makes particular reference to the empowerment of women and their involvement in the country's economic transformation".

Dr Mokaila acknowledged that the programme was also working towards the realisation of the five provincial concretes as well as the departmental Vision and Mission statement.

Meanwhile, another Farmer, Ms Jacqueline Ramaboa, who owns Mmasengwe farming project, based in Bojanala Platinum District, is also set to jet off to the

United States of America for Training on the latest technologies for Poultry. She was also part of a send-off ceremony.

The event was attended by amongst others the representatives of DAFF, Sakata, Youth In Agriculture & Rural Development (YARD) and Women In Agriculture & Rural Development (WARD), Female Farmers across the Province as well as Departmental Management.

Photos:

123245 – Nthabiseng Kgobokoe receiving her trip package from the Head of department, Dr Poncho Mokaila and DAFF representative, Lebo Botsheleng.

0206 – Jacqueline Ramoboa, just as excited to get her trip package to USA

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