



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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PREMIER MOKGOSI SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL FOCUS ON JOBS FOR YOUTH

By Lerato Majobe

Following his election, Premier Lazarus Kagiso Mokgosi said that the 7th administration would deal with the existing socio-economic challenges facing communities head-on.

Speaking at the North West Provincial Legislature, Premier Mokgosi said government will create an enabling environment for young people to be absorbed into labour market during the current administration and that all stakeholders will have to play their part in order to achieve this.

"The North West has the largest youth unemployment in the country. Youth jobs will be the focus of the seventh administration and our first item will be the roll-out of the Labour Activation Programme, coordinated by the Office of the Premier, in partnership with the Department of Labour and Employment, businesses, employer organizations, and other social partners", Premier Mokgosi said.

He added that unfair preferential treatment during recruitment processes would not be allowed and that there would be significant efforts



to change the public service to reflect and respond to the needs of the people.

"Gatekeeping, bias, and nepotism in departments will not be tolerated.

We will transform our public service into a delivery machine that reflects the demography of our province and the spread of its skills and talent", he said.

He said that North West is among those provinces that are still lagging behind with the use of contemporary technology and this makes it difficult for business and society to thrive.

He further said that the government will use this developmental craft to make it more convenient for these groups to access government services, adding

that an Investment and Jobs Summit will also be held towards the end of this year to outline a clear economic plan for the province.

He thanked former Premier, Bushy Maape for imparting his leadership skills and further said that he believes that they will utilize them as a prototype for the new administration.

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DEPARTMENTS AND ENTITIES MEET AFS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

By Kelepile Mokaila

All provincial government departments, the Provincial Legislature, and public entities except North West Transport Investment (NTI) managed to adhere to the legislated submission deadline of the annual financial statement as stipulated by Sections 40(1)(b) and 55(1)(b) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) (Act 1 of 1999).

The submission of these statements is an accountability exercise that kick-starts the audit process by the Office of the Auditor General for the 2023/24 financial year.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, former MEC for Finance Motlalepula Rosho said that many gains in audit outcomes had been achieved in the past five years and that all auditees have been

consistent in submitting annual financial statements.

"A significant improvement has been made in audit outcomes over the past five years whereby Provincial Treasury has implemented support measures that have increased the number of favorable outcomes in departments as well as public entities"

"We still have to double our efforts in public entities like NTI which have nearly collapsed due to mismanagement and inability to keep the entity afloat", former MEC Rosho said.

She added that although a clean audit strategy was introduced in the past five years and that not a single department has been able to achieve a clean audit save the provincial treasury, there has been a significant reduction in audit findings, and only two public entities achieved clean audit in the previous year.

She commended Accounting Officers of departments and Chief

Executive Officers of public entities for their leadership and dedicated support that they provided to their organizations to enable officials to finalize and submit annual financial statements on time.

Various officials were very optimistic that the information contained in the statements was credible and that the resultant audit outcome for the year under review would register a marked improvement.

The Office of the Auditor General's Mthokozisi Sibisi said they are looking forward to a smooth audit process and the improvement of the audit outcomes of the province.

He, however, expressed his concern over the failure of the NTI to submit annual financial statements over the years.

"We will continue reaching out to the leadership there to have that sorted", he said.

He added that it is important for leaders to be close to the audit

process and raise any issue as soon as possible.

"Problems happen when leaders are not close to the process or continue supporting the process", he said.

Speaking on behalf of Chief Financial Officers from the various Provincial Government Departments, Office of the Premier CFO, Tabea Mooketsi said they had put in a lot of work to ensure that they account appropriately on how departments spend public finances and resources.

She also advocated for the implementation of a five-point action plan to assist CFOs in executing their duties in a conducive environment.

She further indicated their gratitude towards the support program by the provincial treasury by equipping them with skills to prepare credible financial statements and the measures aimed at strengthening internal controls and controlling the environment in general.

DR RUTH SEGOMOTSI MOMPATI PARTICIPATES AT SAITEX 2024

By Segomoco Otsheleng

The Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality recently participated in the 2024 Southern African International Trade Exhibition (SAITEX 2024) held at the Sandton Convention Centre.

SAITEX is an anchor to facilitate significant trade opportunities within Southern Africa's dynamic enterprise and emerging economies and attracted over 4300 attendees, more than 160 exhibitors, and participants from 25 countries: offering numerous trade benefits to African countries.

This year SAITEX celebrated its

30th year, marking three decades as a proven and effective platform for fostering trade both within Africa and

internationally.

By participating, countries showcase their products and

services to global audiences, thus gaining exposure to international markets.

They can also capitalize on networking opportunities with key industrial stakeholders' decision-makers and policymakers.

This platform can facilitate potential trade and investment deals, as one of the objectives of SAITEX was to provide insight into the latest market trends and innovations which can be vital to expand and diversify businesses.

Importantly, SAITEX serves as a platform to strengthen intra-African trade and support regional economic growth.



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R1,4-BILLION BUDGET FOR NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY FOR 2024/2025



By Olefile Kobedi

Addressing a virtual council sitting of the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality recently, Executive Mayor Khumalo Molefe outlined the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the 2024/2025 - 2026/2027 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) budget.

"The funded budget seeks to ensure the effective allocation of resources to implement the Integrated Development Plan and were developed in compliance with the Municipal Systems Act as well as

the Municipal Finance Management Act in reflecting the community's aspirations and aligning with national development goals", Cllr Molefe said.

He highlighted key priority areas for the financial year as follows; prudent financial management, the acceleration of Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) expenditure, improved audit outcomes, comprehensive water and sanitation infrastructure maintenance, local economic development and strengthening stakeholder relations through Intergovernmental Relations and the District Development Model Command Council.

"Some of the milestones addressed by Ngaka Modiri Molema

District Municipality in this financial year include sewer system spillages, ageing water infrastructure, and fire services infrastructure", Cllr Molefe said.

Cllr Molefe mentioned the need for efficient financial management, accountability, and ethical leadership, particularly in financial decision-making processes.

"To improve financial management, a shift to responsible budgeting will be announced, with a focus on reducing unauthorized expenditures and improving audit outcomes. The municipality aims at enhancing revenue through a bulk water tariff for local municipalities and developmental charges for developers", he added.

He further urged councillors to

maintain their commitment to community service and activism, ensuring the implementation of council resolutions and continuous improvement in service delivery.

The total budget for 2024/25 is R 1,487,986,000, divided into R 1,085,396,000 for operating expenses and R 402,590,000 for capital expenses.

All notable allocations are R 534,026,000 for operational and R 347,200,000 for capital expenditure on water and sanitation.

A total amount of R 206,413,000 is budgeted for operational activities and R 51,290,000 for capital expenditure on community services.

An additional amount of R 37,154,000 for development and town planning services.

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SPEAKER URGES SUPPORT FOR SERVICE DELIVERY IN MATLOSANA, HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGES AND PROGRESS

By Staff Reporter

In recent interviews on various radio platforms, the Speaker of Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Xolile Nxozana, addressed crucial issues surrounding service delivery in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality.

Highlighting the importance of community support, Cllr Nxozana made a passionate plea to residents to stand against theft and vandalism of government infrastructure, emphasizing the adverse effects such actions have on service delivery.

Singling out cable theft as a major impediment, Cllr Nxozana stressed the need for collective efforts in safeguarding public assets.

He underscored that a collaborative approach is vital to ensuring continued service delivery beyond initiatives such as the Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme ASDP).

Cllr Nxozana also mentioned the District Municipality's proactive measures, citing the "SPEAKER DO SOMETHING" campaign as a testament to the government's commitment.

By taking officials directly to the coal face of service delivery and actively engaging with communities, the municipality has transformed into a hub of construction activity, aimed at rectifying long-standing issues inherited from previous administrations, such as outdated sewer systems, roads, and water infrastructure.

While acknowledging the persistent challenges faced within communities, Cllr Nxozana remained optimistic about ongoing government efforts.

He reassured the community that,



through sustained community engagement and targeted programmes, progress would be made incrementally in addressing

these issues.

The Speaker's resolute call to action serves as a rallying cry for residents to stand united in

supporting service delivery initiatives and safeguarding public resources for the collective benefit of the community.

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DR. KENNETH KAUNDA FACILITATES DISCUSSIONS ON SERVICE DELIVERY AT IDP REPRESENTATIVE FORUM



By Staff Reporter

In a bid to address pressing service delivery challenges, the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality recently hosted the 2024/2025 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) representative forum to bring together a diverse array of stakeholders including government sector departments, community-based organizations, and local municipalities. Led by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Nikiwe Num, the forum

served as a platform for robust discussions and collaborations on prioritizing critical issues affecting the district.

Key focal points of the gathering revolved around addressing urgent concerns including asbestos management, informal settlement conditions, and water and sewer challenges that impact residents daily. Engaging in constructive dialogue, all participating departments offered valuable insights and inputs on these pertinent issues.

With a shared goal of enhancing service delivery and quality of life for residents, the collaborative efforts within the forum aimed to strategize and implement effective solutions to tackle these challenges.

The proactive initiative undertaken by Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality underscores a commitment to fostering inclusive governance and participatory decision-making processes.

By facilitating open discussions and soliciting feedback from various stakeholders, the forum exemplified

a concerted effort to address community needs and improve service delivery outcomes.

As the IDP representative forum continues to unfold, stakeholders remain dedicated to working collaboratively towards sustainable solutions and tangible progress in overcoming the identified obstacles.

The collective engagement and commitment displayed at the forum serve as a testament to the shared vision of building a more resilient and thriving community within the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District.

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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PARTNERS WITH RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY TO ACCELERATE HOUSING DELIVERY



agreement, former MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Nono Maloyi said this partnership is intended to enhance the municipality's capacity and enable them to implement development plans according to human settlements and housing.

As per the agreement, the municipality is delegated to perform full program management and administration of all housing instruments and programmes.

Former MEC Maloyi said that the DHS has already appointed a service provider to assist the municipality with a support plan.

"The department will provide the municipality with all the necessary assistance for them to be able to carry out these tasks and ensure that Rustenburg residents receive efficient housing services", he said.

He added that he is confident that the Rustenburg Local Municipality can execute the responsibility to deliver quality housing services and human settlements projects, as such, the DHS and the municipality will identify and agree on human settlements projects that will be implemented by the municipality as per the agreement.

By Keorapetse Mosipidi

The North West Department of Human Settlements (DHS) recently partnered with the Rustenburg Local Municipality to

intensify the working relationship between the two spheres of government on some of its housing functions.

The DHS, together with the Rustenburg Local Municipality, signed a Level Two Municipal Accreditation Implementation

Protocol at a recent Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP) to enable the municipality to package human settlement projects and ensure efficiency in the turnaround time on project delivery.

Speaking during the signing of the



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MAHIKENG STATE VETERINARY CLINIC, COMPASSIONATE VETERINARY CARE IS OUR PRIORITY

By Thebe Itumeleng

If you are a resident of Mahikeng and are a pet owner seeking reliable and high-quality animal health care services, your search ends here.

The committed staff at this State Veterinary Clinic is prepared to offer you affordable and superior services.

The clinic is strategically located in the central area of Mahikeng, providing essential medical services to over one hundred and ten townships and villages.

In addition, it extends its services to all farms falling within the Mahikeng Local Municipality, thus ensuring comprehensive healthcare coverage for the communities.

Upon your visit or check-in of your animals at this facility, you will be warmly greeted by highly professional and amicable staff.

The current clinic team comprises a State Veterinarian, a Compulsory Community Service Veterinarian (CCS), a Control Animal Health Technician, and seven Animal Health Technicians (AHTs). Additionally, two intern Animal Health Technicians are assigned to the office as part of a graduate program.

"At Mahikeng State Veterinary Clinic, we are dedicated to providing top-quality veterinary care for both small animals and livestock. Our wide range of services include consultations, vaccinations, deworming, and euthanasia. In addition, we offer procedures such as small animal sterilization, hernia repairs, and prolapse treatments. Don't hesitate to contact us to schedule an appointment and give your animals the best possible care," Dr. Koketso Makhubedu of Mahikeng State Veterinary Clinic said.

A member of the community,



Naomi Mmonyne from Ramatlabama village spoke highly of the facility and its top-notch animal healthcare services, affordable prices, and expressed her strong recommendation to fellow pet owners.

"I am highly satisfied with the quality of service provided by the staff at this establishment, and I wholeheartedly recommend fellow pet owners to give them a try. They truly are the best," Mmonyne said.

Please take note of the following information about the Mafikeng State Vet clinic:

- The clinic is located at the corner of Vryburg Road and Bokone Road in the capital city of Mahikeng.
- It operates from Monday to Friday.
- Clients should keep in mind that the clinic handles both internal and external cases, so it is most active from 11 am onwards to accommodate external cases.
- In cases where resources and diagnostic capabilities are limited, the clinic may refer you to other veterinary facilities that can assist.
- Most of the services have a minimum fee. For detailed information, please speak with the attending official.
- The Clinic is committed to helping as many people and will not turn anyone away if able to assist.
- Please feel free to visit this office and make inquiries. For services, contact the clinic at 018 381 6530 or 066 190 9133 during office hours.
- For areas located outside the Mafikeng municipality, it is recommended to contact the designated state veterinary office in the respective local municipality.

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KNOW YOUR MEAT SAFETY ACT, 40 OF 2000

By Muzikayise Nkosi

The Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000 is a national legislation responsible for regulating the slaughter of animals, especially for selling meat. In terms of this act, it is illegal for anyone in South Africa to sell any meat unless it has been slaughtered at an abattoir.

The main purpose of this act is to provide for measures to promote meat safety and the safety of animal products.

An abattoir is defined as a slaughter facility in respect of which a registration certificate has been issued.

So, anyone who wants or wishes to slaughter any animal and sell the meat, must first build an abattoir which must be built by the Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000. Under this act, there are regulations for different species of animals, such as poultry regulations for poultry abattoirs, red

meat regulations for cattle, sheep, and goat abattoirs, game regulations for wild/game animals, etc.

The responsible department for this law is the Department of Agriculture at the national and provincial levels. In the North West Province, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for Veterinary Public Health in the Directorate of Veterinary Services.

There are Veterinary Public Health Officers (VPHOs) in different parts of the provinces based at some State Vet.

Offices and their responsibilities include the enforcement of the Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000. For anyone who wishes to build or establish a new abattoir, the ideal first contact point for advice or guidance is with the local/nearest VPH Officer.

The requirements on where abattoirs can be built, the kind of structure to be built, and how the processes should be run are all based on the applicable regulations under the Meat Safety Act, 40 of

2000.

There are also other stakeholders to be involved when establishing an abattoir, these include the Local Authority, Environmental Affairs, and Water and Sanitation, and the VPHO would give such information to the prospective abattoir owner.

There are several registered abattoirs in the province for different species, especially poultry and red meat, which are monitored regularly by the VPHOs for compliance with the act.

Any slaughter of any animal at any place other than at a registered abattoir is illegal and therefore not allowed.

The Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000 does however exempt the slaughter of animals for own consumption, for cultural or religious purposes, but it is important to note that such meat may not be sold to anyone.

People need to understand that there is a difference between abattoirs and butcheries and the laws applicable are administered by different departments. Butcheries

and all meat retail outlets are regulated in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics, and Disinfectants Act, Act 54 of 1972 (regulation no. 638).

This law falls under the Department of Health and the responsible officers are called Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) and are based in municipalities.

It nevertheless also does prohibit the sale of meat unless sourced in line with the Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000.

All retail outlets are therefore required by law to source all their meat from approved or registered suppliers who are mainly abattoirs.

Consumers have an important role to play in ensuring adherence and compliance to the Meat Safety Act, 40 of 2000, by ensuring they buy meat from approved facilities selling meat sourced from abattoirs.

Consumers can also report illegal slaughter activities they notice in their areas to local VPH Officer who would then investigate and take appropriate action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT ANY OF OUR STATE VETERINARY OFFICES OR CALL ANY OF THE FOLLOWING VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

NAME	CONTACT NO.	Email-address	OFFICE LOCATION
M.D. Nkosi	066 141 6862	Nmuzikayise@nwpg.gov.za	Mmabatho (Regional Office)
S. Kgechane	0661412727	Kgechane@gmail.com	Potchefstroom (Regional Office)
M.A. More	066 141 6413	mojadimorwe@nwpg.gov.za	Mahikeng State Vet Office
M.S. Modise	066 141 6859	Suzanmodise36@gmail.com	Vryburg State Vet Office
M.P. Maredi	0661909160	madulroto77@gmail.com	Ganyesa State Vet Office
G.R.Dlamini	082 322 1066	racheldlamini@yahoo.com	Zeerust State Vet Office
M.L. Matabologa	066 141 6393	lmatabologa@yahoo.com	Lichtenburg State Vet Office
K. Matsietsa	066 190 9228	katlegondu@yahoo.com	Bloemhof State Vet. Office
S.J. Mokubanye	066 141 6893	jmokane@yahoo.com	Madibeng State Vet Office
B. Montoedi	060 980 8620	tumilicity@gmail.com	Potch State Vet Office
T. Hlongwane	0661416817	tlhalefangh@gmail.com	Rustenburg State Vet
J. Lekgothoane	060 980 8723	lekgothoanemogoboya@gmail.com	Moretele State Vet Office
P. Matjila	0660549245	matjilaportia@yahoo.com	Mogwase State Vet Office

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D-ACCOUNT REPORT HANDED TO TRADITIONAL COUNCILS

By Kelepile Mokaila

In a significant move towards transparency and empowerment, the North West Provincial Government recently concluded a series of D-Account handover roadshows to 96 traditional authorities across the province, marking a historic millstone.

These roadshows spanned just over two weeks from mid-April this year to early May.

At the heart of these gatherings was the dissemination of financial reports about the D-Account, an initiative emblematic of the sixth administration's commitment to accountability and development.

Led by the former MEC for Finance, Mottalepula Rosho, these roadshows unfolded a narrative of empowerment and recognition of the pivotal role traditional leadership plays in the province's socio-economic fabric.

She said that the handover of the D-Account to traditional authorities is befitting of a legacy initiative of the sixth administration symbolizing a transformative shift in governance dynamics, particularly in the context of traditional authorities.

Former MEC Rosho added that the handover of Traditional Councils financial reports culminated from a meeting of Traditional Leaders that was hosted by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs that took place in April last year, where Traditional Leaders wanted detailed information about their financial records being maintained by Provincial Treasury.

This handover project has been undertaken to de-mystify the misinformation surrounding the D-Account.

She said that for decades, the call for transparency regarding these accounts was echoed through the corridors of traditional councils.



Now, with the compilation of 29 years' worth of financial reports spanning from 1994 to March 2023, this aspiration has finally materialized.

Former MEC Rosho also paid homage to the collective vision of past Premiers, affirming their shared commitment to realizing this long-awaited dream.

The handover will further assist Traditional councils to understand their financial positions.

Former MEC Rosho said that the significance of this initiative extends beyond mere financial disclosure but also underscores the profound acknowledgment of traditional leadership's indispensable contribution to South Africa's constitutional democracy and community development.

"This journey seeks to support and transform traditional council institutions by constitutional imperatives, restoring their integrity and legitimacy", she said.

The integral focus of the process is the empowerment of traditional authorities with information about the financial Income (inflows) and expenses (outflows) that have taken place over the past 29 years.

The introduction of the Traditional Khoisan Leadership Act, (TKLA) has

brought the positioning of Traditional Leaders into sharp focus as well as the need to be involved in the financial management affairs of their Traditional councils. Traditional leaders are now positioned as key stakeholders in development endeavors.

The D-Account will serve as a catalyst, offering these institutions a platform to engage meaningfully with government at all levels and enter into partnerships that facilitate service delivery.

Former MEC Rosho pledged that the government will provide traditional authorities with capacity-building programmes to enable them to run their affairs effectively and efficiently going forward.

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has already offered ICT and records management support training, including computer literacy courses.

These institutions will shortly be assisted with financial management training which will empower them to interpret financial statements.

Crucially, the roadshows not only delivered financial reports but also underscored a commitment to ongoing engagement with traditional

authorities. A dedicated technical team comprising representatives from the Office of the Premier, COGTA, and Provincial Treasury stands ready to address any queries or concerns raised by traditional authorities, ensuring a collaborative, transparent, and inclusive approach to governance.

Kgosi Thari Maotwe, Provincial Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders and Khoi-San Leaders hailed this initiative as a testament to the provincial government's unwavering commitment. He expressed gratitude for the fulfillment of a longstanding request, emphasizing its significance in fortifying the institution of traditional leadership.

As the dust settled on these historic roadshows, the legacy of the D-Account emerged as a beacon of hope and progress.

It embodies a paradigm shift towards inclusive governance, where traditional authorities will not only be the beneficiaries but active participants in shaping the future of their communities.

In this journey of empowerment, the D-Account stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of democracy and development.

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ZAMAKULUNGA PRIMARY SCHOOL GIVEN A FACELIFT

By Elvis Mosiwa

The Zamakulunga Primary School in Jouberton in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality is undergoing renovations for R7,2 million after the school's infrastructure was left damaged following a severe storm in February 2021.

The school, which opened its doors in 1972, and now caters for 1020 learners, was declared not to be conducive for learning and teaching by the North West Department of Education following the storm.

The renovation project is managed by the North West Department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR), and is being implemented through the Vuk'phile Contractor Development Programme.

This project started in May last year and is expected to be completed in July this year.

An amount of R649 340 has benefited local Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

As part of Thuntsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (ASDP), former MEC for Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi led a delegation that included the Speaker of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Xolile Nxozana, Public Works and Roads head, Moses Kgantsi as well as senior managers from the DPWR and City of Matlosana Local Municipality for an oversight visit at the school.

The Project Manager, Owen More, said the school was so badly damaged that it was declared a non-conducive environment for learning.

He added that 90% of the damage was to the roofing, which made it impossible for learners to use the



school.

The roofing of two classroom blocks including the administration block was badly damaged with cracked walls and the foundation was also exposed due to the soil erosion.

Scope of work done on this project includes repairs to the roof structure, painting, the renovation of ablution facilities, borehole, electrical reticulation as well as landscape design to prevent soil erosion and paving.

“Following the investigation on the damage, the engineers

recommended the building to be demolished, however because the damage was not structural we managed to make the repairs. I can also confirm that we made use of chromadek roofing material which will stand different climate conditions”, More said.

Progress on site is currently at 90% of work done and some of the classrooms have been partially handed over to be utilised for learning.

Former MEC Molapisi said he was encouraged by the work done on the

project despite the slight delays in the completion of the project.

He said the project was important as it contributed to a conducive learning environment.

“It is imperative that our learners are afforded the opportunity to study in an environment that encourages them to look forward to coming to school and work harder for their development. Favourable learning environment will also contribute positively in their future and development of their own communities and in our country as a whole”, former MEC Molapisi said.

“The storm damage negatively affected learning at the school that forced the department to opt for temporary classroom structure which was also not enough to accommodate all the learners. I am glad to see the work done by our government in giving our school a contemporary look”, school principal, Thamsanqa Ngcizela said.

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DIRANG BATSWANA GREENERY PROJECT BRINGS HOPE TO IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES IN KOSTER

By Lerato Modise

Dirang Batswana Greenery Project, a non-governmental organization founded in the small agricultural town of Koster in the Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality, has brought hope to some of the struggling families in the area who can now make ends meet by selling fresh vegetables.

The project was initiated by locals, Itumeleng Tumane and Girly Matsile, with the assistance of Community Development Workers (CDWs) Macdonald Pule, Bennet Thebe, and Tuelo Maotwane, after realising that most community members depend on local farms for work.

Koster is a farming town with little or no factories and industries to create employment and the majority of community members depend on government's social grants to provide for their families.

Youth opportunities are fewer and there is high unemployment as well as poverty. This has also contributed to social ills which include a high rate of crime and abuse of substances such as drugs and alcohol.

Community Development Workers in the area noticed these challenges and reacted by creating the Dirang Batswana Greenery Project to empower young people and to create sustenance for people who could not afford to buy vegetables.

Other stakeholders roped in to assist with the formation of the NGO were the Department of Social Development and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, who provided seedlings for planting, garden equipment, boreholes, as well as a fence for the 2 hectares of land.

One of the beneficiaries of the



backyard projects, Michael Kgosinkwe, said that he has been able to feed himself since he was given to grow vegetables in his back garden.

"My life has changed since I started my backyard garden. I can now make my own money and provide for my family. I thank the CDWs in our area for this initiative and hope others can also be brought

on board as the project grows", Kgosinkwe said.

A group of ten people, comprising women, youth, and the disabled have been appointed to manage the project. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development also provided training on how to grow seasonal vegetables as well as financial management.

Since the project started, a total of

25 members from the community have been chosen to be household backyard growers. They are given seedlings to plant so that they can grow their gardens and learn the skill of growing vegetables.

This initiative has been a great success as community members can now sustain themselves by selling vegetables to provide for their families.

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AGRONOMY PRACTICES TO REMEMBER WHEN GROWING POTATOES



By Vusimusi Ngcobo

Growing potatoes is very tricky unlike other vegetables/crops.

Potatoes grow beneath the soil, which makes it hard to track the progress of the crop therefore, it is essential to take samples of the soil to be planted on.

Soil samples are taken by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Soil Science Division to test and analyse as well as give recommendations.

Zooming into the production of Potato (*salonum tuberosum* L.) practices to minimise losses and to meet the household nutritional requirements, producers need to ensure cultivars are disease free and disease resistant.

It is important to procure from reputable suppliers and to know which cultivars thrive within your



region as well as the markets you intend to supply.

Knowledge growth period for the selected cultivar is essential to measure physiological and market maturity which are indicators for readiness to harvest.

During the crop developmental stages, scouting is very imperative as it is a method used to identify crop

nutritional deficiency and diseases on the field.

Once any abnormality is identified, one needs to consult an Agricultural Advisor who will help with solutions to the problem.

Crop rotation is essential to minimise the build-up of diseases and nematodes which also diminishes soil health. That's why it's

key to incorporate cover and crop rotation.

One may rotate potatoes with onion, butternut or grain to serve as cover crop and use its residues for mulching. Throughout the growing season, make to balance the soil moisture content as potatoes require moist soils to bulk.

Planting date is also an important factor to consider for harvesting. Once the crop reaches its physiological maturity stage, the crop will senesce and then 7-14 days from the initial natural dying, the plant starts to suberize meaning the walls of the crop thickens to enable handling without the skin peeling off.

It also helps when washing with recommended chemicals to enhance longer shelf life. Good luck potato farmer!

Vusimuzi Ngcobo is an Agriculture Advisor of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality

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THE IMPORTANCE OF DIPPING LIVESTOCK



By Lefentswe Mosupa

For a farmer to have a healthy flock or herd of animals there must be several activities that he or she must do regularly with the guidance of a livestock health management programme

Such a programme may differ between different areas and from one season to another.

The frequency of an activity, such as deworming, dipping, or vaccination, in such a programme is guided by scientific research on pathogens, which are disease-causing organisms, and their vectors in relation to area and climatic season, and the guidance as per remedy recommendation.

In this discussion, we are going to focus on the importance of the dipping of cattle, sheep, and goats, to highlight why it is important for a farmer to incorporate it in livestock management programmes.

The importance of external parasite treatment lies in the existence of pathogens that are

harboured by vectors that have a predilection for the skin of the abovementioned animals.

Moreover, many of these vectors tend to infect more than one animal, either through mechanical or biological transmission.

Some parasites can transmit disease to more than one species of animal. If this is the case then a strategic approach to dipping animals is necessary, namely a WHOLE-HERD/FLOCK approach.

There must not be a situation whereby certain animals of a herd/flock are treated for external parasites while others are left behind—they must all be done at the same time. The common dipping methods include plunge dipping, spray and/or use of pour-on.

External parasites can lead to diseases like heartwater, red water, tick-borne gall-sickness, sweating sickness, sheep scabs, abscesses, etc. In the case of a disease like heartwater, the tick (vector) that harbours the heartwater organism is a 3-host tick called Bont tick.

This means that, in its lifetime, it will climb and feed upon three different animals, which may be cattle, and/or sheep, and/or goats, or

all three species.

To add to the dread, the animals need not be in direct contact with one another for the tick to transmit the disease; after feeding on its current host the tick will climb off, change to the next phase of its life while on the ground, and then climb on the next animal for more feeding until it reaches the adult stage.

This is how it transmits the disease from one animal to another.

Before the adult female tick dies it may lay up to 20,000 eggs that will, upon favourable conditions, hatch and grow to become another group of ticks that will transmit the disease to more animals, and if there is animal movement from one area to the other without dipping, the disease will spread from one area to another.

Without timeous treatment heartwater disease will present various nervous clinical signs in the animal like circling, drooling saliva, falling, and cycling legs as well, eventually leading to death.

Heartwater happens to be one of the most problematic tick-borne diseases in the entire North West province and South Africa at large.

Ticks are not the only kind of external parasite that animals come

across.

As opposed to ticks, some parasites prevail in the winter season. An example is the mange mites that cause a disease of economic importance called Sheep Scab.

This is because of the lower sunlight and temperatures that allow for a moist wool environment possessed by a host animal that has been discovered to be a favourable environment to the mite.

The parasite that causes this disease penetrates the skin of the host animal, irritating the animal.

A farmer may witness his/her sheep biting themselves, rubbing against objects, and losing wool, among other things. This will affect the growth and performance of the animals as well as the quality of their wool.

It is important to note that Sheep scab, like Foot and Mouth Disease, is a State Controlled Disease, meaning that should a farmer suspect it, they must report it to their nearest veterinary office.

Farmers will have varying challenges in executing an effective dipping strategy. A commercial farmer compared to farmers in a

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cooperative, vs farmers sharing communal grazing land will encounter differing obstacles.

A commercial farmer with fenced grazing land only has to concentrate on the livestock he/she owns.

Farmers in a cooperative and those on communal land must collaborate to ensure that all animals are dipped on the would-be agreed day of dipping.

The most difficult situation, in the context of synchronized livestock dipping, is on communal territories due to the larger number of participants, such as livestock owners, who must part-take in such an activity. The usual finding is that

there is no fencing between villages, and the problem with this is that it gives room for contact between animals from different villages. This indicates the need for a coordinated dipping strategy; not only should farmers from the same village dip their animals on the same day, but neighbouring villages must also try to synchronize their days of dipping to achieve effective parasite control.

Many farmers are not cognitive of this, and that is where the role of Veterinary Extension comes into play.

Animal Health Technicians must continuously emphasize this and must help coordinate this action.

North West Province is largely a rural province and there is a significantly huge population of livestock in communal areas.

If farmers in communal grazing territories can cooperate and start executing good dipping practices, uniformly, external-parasite-borne-disease occurrences will reduce, thus, reducing the frequency of needing to purchase drugs to treat such diseases; the kind of money that a farmer can use for other endeavours to grow their farm.

Therefore, prevention of these diseases is better than attempting to treat them. In other words, by following a proper dipping

programme and strategy (in conjunction with other disease management practices) farmers in communal land may start to improve their contribution to South Africa's commercial meat industry, and thereby, the economy; just as those farmers who are already contributing.

NB: MANY OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES ARE BROUGHT ABOUT BY EXTERNAL PARASITES. HEARTWATER AND SHEEP SCAB WERE THE CHOSEN EXAMPLES FOR THIS ARTICLE.

Lefentswe Mosupa is an Animal Health Technician based at the Greater Taung State Veterinary Office

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COGTA MAKING STRIDES TO RESOLVE CHALLENGES

By Thebeetsile Keameditse and
Boitumelo Seleka

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) is making significant strides to improve water and sanitation infrastructure to deal with water shortage and sanitation backlog, with several infrastructure projects that are underway in different municipalities in the province.

COGTA has identified several hot spot areas and set aside over R100 million for these projects, which include amongst others, setting up of new infrastructure while maintaining and refurbishing existing ones.

In the Bojanala Platinum District, the Mazista Internal Reticulation and Installation project in the Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality is nearing completion to provide a consistent water supply in the area.

At Pella village in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, COGTA is drilling and equipping new boreholes to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the local clinic to ensure efficient primary health care.

As part of upgrading the sanitation infrastructure, COGTA is replacing the sewer pipeline at Mmotla village and refurbishing the wastewater package plant at Mmakgabelwane village, both in the Moretele Local Municipality.

The refurbishment of the Oppi-Toppi pump station in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality is currently underway.

The work to excavate and lay pipes in Jaaghtkraal, Senthimole, Ditsoswane, and Iraq in the Tswaing Local Municipality, has already started.

In the Ratlou Local Municipality, the equipping and refurbishment of several boreholes at different municipal offices and facilities is



almost complete, to ensure the extended access to water for communities.

The refurbishment of an existing elevated steel tank and booster pump station is underway at Tigane in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality while the refurbishment of dysfunctional boreholes is also taking place at Upper Majeakgoro in

the Greater Taung Local Municipality.

Meanwhile, in the Mamusa Local Municipality, the refurbishing of non-functional boreholes to augment supply from the Wenzel Dam and refurbishing non-functional sewer pump stations is moving forward.

COGTA is also providing bulk meters at borehole reservoirs for areas in and around Vryburg.

Former MEC Patrick Nono Dumile

Maloyi said that the projects will lessen the water shortage challenge that is being experienced in some municipalities in the province.

"Access to water is a basic human right and as the department, we will continue to prioritize the well-being and development of our communities. With the project we are demonstrating our commitment to dealing with water shortage and improving the quality of our lives through essential infrastructure and services", former MEC Maloyi said.

COGTA is also intervening in Pomfret in the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality.

Other major water projects that are underway include the Tlhabologang Water Augmentation, Coligny Sewer Reticulation, Rooigrond Water Augmentation, Christiana Sewer Reticulation, and the Agisanang Bulk Sewer.

The projects are at different advanced stages with Rooigrond only awaiting energizing by Eskom to start an uninterrupted supply of water.

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LONAKA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT E AMOGELA KA DIATLA TSOO-PEDI DITHUSO GO TSWA LEFAPHENG LA TEMOTHUO LE TLHABOLOLO YA METSEMAGAE



Ka Thebe Itumeleng

Lonaka Agricultural Project ke nngwe ya diporojeke tse di thusitsweng ke puso sesheng jaana ka maikaelelo a go di matlafatsa gore di godise ikonomi ya metseselegae ka go tlhama ditiro.

Mong wa porojeke e leng Kagiso Dirapelo o amogetse ka diatla tsoo-pedi thuso eo go tswa Lefapheng la Temothuo le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae mo Porofenseng ya North West.

Projeke eno e fitlhelwa mo motsaneng wa Moletsamongwe o o kwantlenyana ga Mahikeng. Kwa porokeng eno go tlhagisiwa nama ya koko, dikoko tsa go ruiwa, mae le merago e e farologaneng e e akaretsang sepinache, ditamati, dieie, khabeche, chilisi le ditapole. Ba Lonaka gape ba lema le go jala dinawa.

Mme lerato la ga Rre Dirapelo mo go tsa temothuo lone le simolotse bogologolo fa a ne a tlhokomela leruo la ko gabone.

Dingwaga morago ga go wetsa

dithuto tsa gagwe, Dirapelo o ile a ya go dira kwa go nngwe ya ditheo tse di kgolo tsa tlhaeletsano, mme ga go a ka ga feta nako e telele pele ga lerato la gagwe le mo tlhotlheletsa go boela kwa a simolotseng gone e leng temothuo. O ile a kwadisa semmuso porojeke eno ka ngwaga wa 2018. A simolola ka dikgomo di le tlhano fela mme morago a reka dihutshane mme fa nako e ntse e tsamaya a lemoga gore diphologolo di tsaya nako go dira lotseno. Ka ntlha ya seo, o ne a simolola go tlhoma mogopolo wa gagwe thata mo go tsa go jala merogo le dinawa. Fa e sale ka nako eo Dirapelo ga a ise a ko a lebe ko morago.

O direla mo lefelong la bogolo jwa diheketara di le masome-a-mabedi le borataro (26 ha) mme o na le maano a go atolosa mafelo a direlang mo go one. O simolotse sengwe le sengwe ka ledi le a neng a na le lone morago ga go tlogela tiro mo lephateng le a neng a le berekela, mme lefapha le ile kwa morago la mo thusa.

Nngwe ya dithuso tsa ntlha e ne e le maele le dikgakololo go tswa mo balemising (extension and advisory

services). Mme tiro ya gagwe ya bonatla e ile ya dira gore a tswelale go ikamogelela dithuso tse dingwe go tswa lefapheng.

Dirapelo ke mongwe wa balemirui ba sesheng jaana a ileng a amogela terekere, megoma, polantere le sediriswa sa go tshela menontsha le dibolaya megare mo dijalong e le go mo thusa go tlhagisa dikuno tse di oketsegileng.

Gape ke mongwe wa balemi ba le mmalwa ba ba neng ba tlhophiwa gape go tsena mo porogramong ya South African Good Agricultural Practice, SA-GAP. Ka porogramo eno, balemi ba merogo e farologaneng ba katisiwa ka tshwaro ya dijalo gore di dule di itekanetse.

O ne a konosetsa katiso eo mme ga jaana ka sealogane sa SA-GAP, seo se mo kgontshang go rekisa ditlhagisiwa tsa gagwe mo mabenkele a magolo go ralala naga.

Ka ntlha ya dithuso tseno tsa puso, Lonaka Agricultural Project e tlhamile ditiro di le mmalwa mme bontsi jwa badiri bano ke ba pele ba neng ba sa dire gope kgotsa ba ile ba felelwa ke tiro.

Mongwe wa bone ke Otsile

Tsikang yo o tswang mo motseng wa Magogoe mo Mahikeng. Mangwe a maikarabelo a ga Otsile a letsatsi le letsatsi ke go tlhokomela dikoko le go netefatsa gore sengwe le sengwe se tsamaya sentle mo polasing. Otsile o kaile fa tshono e a e filweng ke ba Lonaka Agricultural Project e sa mo thuse fela ka tsa dichelete mme e mo thusitse ka maitemogelo a mantsi a a ka mo kgontshang go itshimololela porojeke ya gagwe ya tsa temo nako nngwe le nngwe.

“Ke leboga tshono e ke e filweng ke Rre Kagiso Dirapelo ka go nthapa le go ntlhatlhelela ka kitso e ke neng ke sena yone pele ke tla go dira fano. Ka maitemogelo a ke setseng ke na le one a go bereka fano, nka kgona go simolola porojeke ya me ya tsa temo. Ke setse ke itse le mefuta e e farologaneng ya malwetsi a dijalo le a dikoko le gore a thibelwa le go fodisiwa jang,” ga rialo Otsile Tsikang yo e leng modiri kwa porojekeng ya Lonaka. Porojeke eno e na le badiri ba le bararo ba ba tlisitsweng ke porogramo ya go ithutela tirong ya dialogane kgotsa Agricultural Graduate Program.

Maikaelelo a yone ke go thusa dialogane tseno go ithuta ka go tsamaisa kgwebo le go anya maitemogelo a ditiro tse di dirwang kwa dipolasing.

Kelebogile Gontse ke mongwe wa dialogane tseo. O na le diploma ya Crop Science go tswa kwa setheong sa thuto e kgolwane sa North West (North West University). Ka ntlha ya tshono e a feilweng ke porogramo eno, Kelebogile o na le keletso ya gore morago ga dingwaga tse pedi tse a tlileng go di dira kwa Lonaka, a dirise kitso eo kwa porojekeng e e leng ya gagwe.

Lefapha le rotloetsa ba ba mo lephateng la temothuo ebile ba eletsa go utlwa ka fa puso e ka ba thusang ka gone go etela dikantoro tsa lefapha tse di gauifi le mo ba gone kgotsa gore ba o ikopanye le balemisi ba mafelo a ba dirang kwa go one.

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