



**REMARKS BY PREMIER L.K MOKGOSI
ON THE OCASSION
OF THE LAUNCH
OF PROVINCIAL AGRI-HUB
MOLELWANE FARM
NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY
MAHIKENG CAMPUS
MONDAY, 03 MARCH 2024**

Programme Director,
MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development,
Members of the Executive Council present here today,
The Executive Mayor of Mahikeng Local Municipality,
The Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District
Municipality,
The Vice-Chancellor of North West University, Professor
Bismark Tyobeka,
Leaders of Faith-based organisations present here today,
The North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders,
Bagaetsho Dumelang,

Programme Director, I am indeed privileged and honoured to be part of this important initiative which forms part and parcel of our ongoing efforts to give much specialised attention to the agricultural industry and fight the scourge of unemployment and poverty afflicting our communities.

This launch comes a few days after I delivered the Province's Policy Statement which comprised of this initiative.

It also comes a few days after MEC Sambatha and I, attended the graduation ceremony of 82 students of the Potchefstroom Agricultural College.

The graduations further give impetus and put emphasis on our efforts to reposition this sector.

Programme Director, in terms of production trends, the NW Agricultural contribution to the province's GDP is at 3,0%, with African and black farmers playing a minimal role in this regard.

It is further indicated that NW ranks between 1st and 5th on production of Soya beans, Beef, Chevron, Sorghum, Lucerne and Groundnuts.

These statistics are important in the planning and development of an improved Agricultural sector within the province.

It is therefore upon the Agri-Hub to turnaround this scenario.

The execution of this initiative correlates with the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS), which has placed a stronger focus on agriculture, to drive economic growth, alleviate poverty and create jobs.

Bagaetsho, the launch of this Agri-Hub is primarily centred on the second priority of the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP-2025-2030) which is to **Fight Poverty and High Costs of Living**.

Extreme poverty as former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Anan once remarked; **“is a threat to human security”** and **“only in a world that is rid of poverty can all men and women make the most of their abilities”**.

Bagaetsho, As I indicated in our Policy Statement, the launch of this flagship programme further seeks to contribute to the province’s sustainable economic growth, and today marks the beginning of the realization of that promise.

Programme Director, this Agri-hub will serve as a centre of excellence in the enhancement of livestock and crop value chains, support to our farmers through research, technology development, skills development and capacity building.

This includes the creation of a conducive and an enabling environment for Agri-value-chains, entrepreneurship and development of sustainable markets for economic growth.

Each of the role players within the hub are entrusted with the responsibility to ensure realization of this objective.

This Hub will help the farmers in three identified commodities which is Beef, Goat, and Crop production.

Bagaetsho, the coordinators will be working with farmers through a structure that will be explained in due course.

The African stud breeders will play a critical role in the process of ensuring structured commercialization within the identified livestock commodities, by working directly with producers in our various villages and farming communities.

A lot of ground work by the Agri-Hub structure needs to be done in an accelerated manner confined within our Accelerated Service Delivery Programme (Thuntsa lerole).

The Agriculture and Agro-processing imperatives as encapsulated within the Agriculture and Agro-processing masterplan (AAMP) will be realised through this initiative.

Programme Director, this will be done by creating production, marketing & trade infrastructure.

Market expansion as well as improved access, localised food import replacement and expand Agro-processing will be prioritised to enhance food security, production output and job creation.

These priority areas are underpinned by governments strategy to Refocus Agriculture in the province, which puts commercialization, aggregation and infrastructure development as our apex priorities.

To our farmers and producers, this is a start of greater things for us! Without you these efforts will be in vain!

We will work with **Dikgosi tsa rona tse di tlotlegang** to ensure that the dignity and the vibrancy of our traditional communities are restored

This will be done through the Rural Development Strategy by implementing various poverty alleviation programmes, that I will launch in the next financial year which includes “**Ntime o mphele ngwana**” initiative.

In seeing to the success and full implementation of this initiative, I urge you to remember these words of the founding father of our nation, Nelson Mandela when he said;

“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world none of us can truly rest”.

I thank you!