

The Launch of the Setsoto Integrated Dairy Farming: 26 October 2009

Futterkamp, Germany

Speech of the Executive Mayor, Mofumahadi Pinky Mopedi

Dr Boll, the Director of Futterkamp, Mr Looft, the President of ProTec, Mr Donicht, CEO of DEULA, Mr Marange, CEO of ProTec, Mr Heller, the President of the Association of German farmers, Mr Silinda, Chief Director in the Department of Agriculture in the Free State, members of the press present, our five beloved sons and daughters who will be completing their training here at Futterkamp at the end of this month (October 2009) ladies and gentlemen.

I am bringing with me the greetings and love of all our people back home in South Africa, particularly from our beautiful Province of the Free State and Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality.

Let me express our deepest regret that Mayor Maduna had to cancel his trip to be part of this very important event, the launch on the eleventh hour due to unforeseen circumstances. Please accept his due apology and unwavering commitment to the implementation and success of the Setsoto Integrated Dairy Farming Project.

The Setsoto Integrated Dairy Farming Project has been initiated and pioneered by the Mayor, councillor Mbothoma Maduna, but has now become one of the most important projects in our District Municipality of Thabo Mofutsanyane. The Mayors of Dihlabeng (Mayor Mofokeng) and Nketoane (Mayor Mamba) were also to be part of our delegation but had to postpone their trip due to unforeseen circumstance, but will eventually make the trip later this month.

For your information ladies and gentlemen, let me quickly explain how our governance structures in South Africa are constituted. The country is divided into nine provinces which include our own, the Free State Province, with the Premier (Honourable Ace Magashule) as the head. Each province is divided into District Municipalities, with Executive Mayors as political heads (leaders) and each district

municipality is further divided into local municipalities with Mayors as political heads (leaders). Our District Municipality is Thabo Mofutsanyane, of which I am the Executive Mayor, and is made up by the following municipalities: Setsoto, Dihlabeng, Nketoane, Maluti a Phofung and Phumelela.

The current population of South Africa is estimated at 49,3 millions, with the share of our province of Free State at about 2,9 millions. Our district municipality has an estimated population of 528 315 people, with Setsoto Municipality standing at 125 748 citizens.

South Africa is faced with three broad challenges. The first is unemployment, the second is poverty and the last is economic growth. The country is looking at ways and means to address these challenges through projects like this. We are convinced as a country that a solution exists by implementing this project because the project has a potential of creating massive jobs, eradicate poverty and contribute towards sustainable economic development. It is a fact that South Africa's economy is still dualistic. Commercial farmers are in the first economy and the emerging farmers are still under the second economy and we are aware as a country that this gap between the first and second economies can be addressed through skills transfer. So Futterkamp is going to assist us in technology development and technology transfer which are key in addressing these three challenges

The unemployment rate of South Africa is estimated at 23,2%, and the Free State Province is at 22,9% while the Setsoto Municipality is at about 42%, with the district averaging 38%. The majority of the employed people is in the public sector, followed by the informal sector.

The purpose of the above statistical information is to put the Setsoto Integrated Dairy Farming Project, and need for massive investment in context. The project, when fully implemented, will help largely to deal with the serious challenge of unemployment in our district and the country. The province largely depends on primary sector for economic development and subsistence, with Agriculture being key, and mining to certain extend.

We are proud and privileged to be associated with a very progressive partnership of Futterkamp, ProTec and DEULA.

The project enjoys the support of the provincial government, with the Premier having keen interest in the project as part of broader economic development. The Premier, during his Operation Hlasela Campaign, instructed Mayor Maduna to support one of the government pilot projects in Dairy Farming that is situated at Makgolokoeng/Ditaloane area. Emily Mjwaga, who is an extension officer in the Department of Agriculture was then identified and sent to Futterkamp for training. Setsoto Municipality paid for her training costs, while the department paid for the return flight. The Department has also paid for the return flight tickets for the other four trainees who are currently training here at Futterkamp. Mr Silinda, Chief Director of operations in the department is here to further show the department's support.

The Project Manager, Mr Sello Tsolo is the driver of the project and has recently visited Germany to familiarize himself with the facilities and infrastructure at Futterkamp and other relevant places. More information, pictures and the report on the Project Manager's visit to Futterkamp can be accessed on the Setsoto website: www.setsoto.co.za . A detailed planning, which is an engineering function will be carried out in the next two to four weeks.

Mr Godfrey Marange of ProTec has been a key factor in the progress and success that the project has achieved so far.

In conclusion, let me thank Mr Eric Looft, Dr Boll and Mr Donicht for their commitment and support for the development of our people and the continent. South Africa and Africa can only succeed, develop and grow if the major economies such as Germany can invest and support.

I THANK YOU!