

SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

P. O. Box 471, Vereeniging, 1930, Corner Leslie & Beaconsfield Avenue, Vereeniging, 1931
Tel. (+27 16) 450 3960 / 3961, Fax: 086 262 6353, Cellphone: 082 672 8780
Email: danm@sedibeng.gov.za

External Communications: Media Release

To all media houses, News Editors & Journalists

Thursday, 13th December 2012

Sedibeng hands over tractors to farmers as part of Zero Hunger and Job Creation.

The Sedibeng District is part of the Maize Triangle Programme which was launched by the Gauteng Provincial Government in 2010. The programme is intended to revive and preserve the traditional maize producing regions of Gauteng and other crops which are staple food for the country.

Agriculture, being one of the sectors which need to play a role in improving the economy and the well being of the people, it is expected to be a contributing factor. These tractors were received from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture for strategic and high impact projects which support GDARD's sector mission in the province.

This programme came after the launching of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme by President Jacob Zuma in Limpopo on the 18 August 2009 as part of a critical part of the rural development strategy which is intended to stimulate agricultural production with the view to contribute to food security.

The handover of the tractor will be on Thursday, 13th December 2012 at 10:00 at the Vaal Teknorama, Vereeniging

This programme will further assist rural communities to use land productively and optimally in the fight to eradicate poverty. The Sedibeng District Municipality will therefore utilise this programme as a way of ensuring food security in the region.

It is through programmes such as this one that our commitment of reinventing the economy in our region will be a success. There are vast tracts of land which are either underutilised or lying fallow and these lands will be targeted as government intensifies the campaign to eradicate hunger and create jobs within the region.

Objectives of this programme are:

- To ensure that farmers have access to contemporary agriculture mechanization,



- To ensure that smallholder agricultural entrepreneurs are supported to become fully commercial farmers,
- To maximize the potential competitive approach of Gauteng Province based on its endowment with natural and agricultural resources comparative advantage,
- To increase the importance of the agricultural sector and improve its contribution to the Gauteng GDP,
- To contribute towards achieving provincial priorities of creating decent work and building a growing; inclusive economy and also stimulating rural development and food security,
- To bridge the gap between the commercial, emerging and subsistence farmers by providing proper mechanization to farmers at the lower end of the scale such as that they can compete for markets with the commercial farmers.

The implementation process will follow a simple partnership principle, which uses the bottom up approach. On top it will be a Branch Agriculture and Gauteng Agriculture Mechanization Committee; followed by Regional Manager Endorsement; then Municipal Representatives/Farmer agriculture advisors/Individual Farmers/Farmer Groups.

GDARD owns the tractors and these will be transferred to other entities such as District Municipalities; Co-operatives and Agriculture Department Branches (Namely, Tier 1 – 3).

The implements which will be distributed to local municipalities comprise of 9 tractors; 2 trailers and 38 equipments and they will be distributed based on the commodities produced in the area.

“The distribution of these tractors and farming equipments today, will assist in our quest for future agricultural development in the region and will augment the work we already do in assisting individual farmers, agricultural cooperatives, farmers’ organisation and NPO’s in this regard”, said the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng.

These tractors and implements will be leased to the Local Municipalities in Sedibeng and they cover costs for their insurance; maintenance and licensing. Then the locals will have separate agreement with the farmers to cover fuel; labour and other related costs.

Ends!

**Issued by the External Communications
Sedibeng District Municipality**

