

SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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To all media houses, News Editors & Journalists

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Sedibeng hands over nine (9) tractors to farmers as part of Zero Hunger and Job Creation

The Sedibeng District Municipality handed over nine (9) tractors yesterday, 13th December 2012 in Vereeniging. This was 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.

The handover comprised of nine (9) tractors; 2 trailers and 38 equipments the ceremony was attended by the Executive Mayors, Members of Mayoral Committees, Councillors and the Community Work Programme volunteers.

All the local municipalities (Emfuleni, Midvaal & Lesedi) received two tractors each with the Community Work Programme receiving one of the tractors and the remaining two will be used on a rotational basis to other beneficiaries by the Sedibeng District Municipality.

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.

Municipalities and all beneficiaries who received these tractors welcomed the initiative by the government in ensuring that farmers and in particular emerging ones get assistance which they need to continue in farming opportunities in the Region.

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”, said the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng.

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 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”, added 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!

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Sedibeng District Municipality**