



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
agriculture, land reform & rural development
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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temothuo news

the ever-green information harvest

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM & RURAL DEVELOPMENT • APRIL - JUNE 2011 • 3rd EDITION

ROOIBOS TEA LAUNCH

"War on Poverty – An initiative to create jobs and wealth
through agricultural and agro-processing"



"A transformed, vibrant agricultural sector for food security and sustainable rural development"

CRDP Spotlight in Heuningvlei: Pg 6-8
Multi-Million Project Unveiled: Pg 10-11
Floods ravage the province: Pg 13

Vision

A transformed, vibrant agricultural sector
for food security and sustainable rural development

Mission

The Department as a lead agent in the sector,
will champion land and agrarian transformation,
promote and facilitate increased production
and provide expertise for improved livelihoods,
sustainable rural development and food security for all.

Values

- Responsiveness • Sacrifice • Professionalism
- Accountability • Respect • Innovation



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Ed's note

The timing for the release of Temothuo News third publication couldn't have come at a better time than now. This comes after a basket of events took place in the work place and in the country. A month ago, South Africans went back to the voting polls to cast their votes for the local government elections. We salute all officials who braved the cold to make their mark.

The journey for 'Temothuo News' has not been smooth sailing, we came across challenges pertaining to content management. However, this did not impede us from bringing you our reader's newsworthy articles. With the whole new look, the publication will certainly propel you to read your issue from cover to cover.

In this issue, we introduce to you the faces behind Temothuo News, the very people who bring it to life, give you a brief synopsis on the budget outlook of the department and what the Department anticipates to achieve in the 2011/2012 financial year. In the same breath, we enlighten you on the losses incurred by the farmers during the summer season due to heavy rainfalls. We then take a glimpse on what made Heuningvlei to be under the spotlight as the province's next CRDP pilot site. One must acknowledge that there are lots of challenges in this area, however, Riemvasmaak has set a trend and we can confidently say the department will deliver on the mandate of government by improving this site.

The publication also takes you through what the department has achieved post the appointment of Tlou Technologies', the Change Management Project team. Read about the changes that are implemented to create this a better and safer place to work in. Let us work together to make the Change Management Project a success. Our mantra should be; "If it is to be, it is up to me". To honor and recognize the people we interact with daily on our corridors, featured get an article on Oom Freddy and how he lives his day to day life with his family.

During the 2010 FIFA World Cup, we as people of Mzansi, relegated our differences to the back burner and fully supported our national team, Bafana Bafana. We had memorable and wonderful build-up programmes leading to the kick-off of the tournament. On 9th September 2011, the International Rugby Board's World Cup will kick off in New Zealand. The "100 day" countdown event was held on the 1st of June in Soweto. It is important that we give the same support to Amabokoko. The campaign's anthem is "Lets do it again" for the Rugby World Cup. The song is a collaboration between music superstars "Freshly Ground" and "Goldfish". The centrepiece of the campaign is "Bokday" where supporters are encouraged to wear their Bokke t-shirts every Friday. The t-shirts sell for as little as R70 for the cheapest one. A little bit of patriotism for as little as R70 can surely not crack your bank account. Viva patriotism! Viva die bokke!

We will strive to bring relevant news Njalo!

Foreword

by the Member of the Executive Council



This edition of Temothuo news comes after the successful launch of the Rooibos Tea Project initiative in Nieuwoudtville, Hantam Municipality and after our people have exercised their hard won democratic right to vote for their local representatives. This indeed is a significant act that should never be taken for granted as many people lost their lives in order to ensure that we can exercise this democratic right and to choose who we want to govern us. People like Solomon Mahlangu, Chris Hani, Basil February, Hutshe Segolodi, Tommy Morebodi, Khotso Flatella, Zola Shongwe, Latlhi Mabilo and many others lost their lives so that we may have the right to choose our own political representative.

We are in the middle of our change management programme and it is my fervent hope that sufficient progress is being made in order to ensure that we develop an organisation that is responsive to the agricultural sector and is able to address the land reform and rural development challenges we face. This organisation must also be able to ensure that sufficient emphasis is placed on the human development of our employees and proper recognition of all those who are committed to ensuring that our mission and vision are achieved. Ours should be a mission to build a Department responsive to our sectoral challenges whilst ensuring that we reward excellent performance in a very objective manner. We must build a strong organisation which should be an employer of choice within the Provincial Administration.

This edition also comes during the month of June, which in our country is Youth Month. We must remember all the young lions that played a pivotal role to ensure that we are able to enjoy our freedom today. We remember pioneers like Ruth First and a lot of progressive young people who stood head and shoulders above their peers to ensure that we realise a free and democratic South Africa. We will be celebrating Mandela Day next month and it is my sincere hope that we would all go out and sacrifice our labour for the less fortunate, this appeal is made especially to young people in the Department as a dedication to President Nelson Mandela.

Let us also put the Moshoeshoe Family in our prayers in their quest to find their missing daughter Rehanna and let God almighty be their guiding light as they traverse through these difficult times.

Norman Shushu, MPL
MEC: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

Foreword

by the Head of Department



As we enter the new cycle of the financial year I welcome all employees who joined the transformed agricultural sector in recent times. In the same spirit, let me also pass on my good wishes to officials who obtained BTech Degrees and Diploma's in various disciplines. They have with inconsiderable doubt, acquired insight and knowledge which shall have successful and positive spin-offs towards contributing to serving poor communities of the province. Furthermore, I salute those officials who put their best foot forward to register with higher institutions in order to improve their academic credentials.

With the department having been allocated R357 084 million for the fiscal year, it is our responsibility to spend the allocation on delivering government's mandate by ensuring that there is food security for all and by closing the gap in the living conditions of the poorest people of our province. In all your planned activities take note of this and become a player.

During the last financial year, we engaged with all levels of management to review the strategic plan of the department. Key to the deliberations was to see how best to synergize activities and ensure cohesion in terms of reporting the department's performance. From now henceforth, the honors lie with each of us to make certain that we deliver on all 12 priority outcomes. With the first quarter coming to an end, let's take stock and check how we have done thus far towards the attainment of goals as set out in the strategic plan. With Heuningvlei, Schmidtsdrift, Umsombomvu and Renosterberg added as new CRDP sites in the province, it is apparent that the department is responding to the call of building vibrant and sustainable rural communities.

It must be noted that remedial actions have been taken in an attempt to resolve issues which emanated from 'The Staff Indaba' held last year. It came out strongly that some kind of 'change' was needed to redress highlighted challenges. It was for this reason that a consultant named 'Tlou Technologies' was appointed to facilitate the 'Change Management Process' in the department and progress is outlined in this issue. We look forward to having another staff engagement in the second quarter. Clearly, avenues and platform to engage with staff are not limited only to 'The Staff Indaba' and on course is the establishment of the Intranet whose objective is to further strengthen communication between staff and management. I will communicate with staff on the intranet through the 'HoD's Blog'. You are also encouraged to make use of suggestion boxes located in your offices to comment and make suggestions which will assist us to transform the sector further.

We all know that success comes through hard work. Let me thank all staff members who put immeasurable efforts in ensuring that we deliver on our mandate.

Always remember to change attitude towards your work because change begins with you!

Viljoen Mothibi
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

CRDP spotlight in Heuningvlei

Text: Bongiwe Thatelo
Pictures: Rural Development Unit



Building sustainable and vibrant rural communities is central to the business of the department. The Riemvasmaak pilot site elevated the bar and is unquestionably a trendsetter for the successful implementation of the programme in the province. The department is breaking new grounds with the inclusion of additional CRPD sites. The spotlight in this fiscal year is on Heuningvlei.

Where is Heuningvlei? Heuningvlei village is in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality. It is located 120 km north of Kuruman Town and 80 km north of the Hotazel Manganese Mines. It is surrounded by villages such as Makhubang, Shalaneng, Tsiloane, Kome, Perth, Sesipi, Klein Eiffel, Mandingwane and Madibeng in the Moshaweng Local Municipality. There is a gravel road which stretches 156km from Rustfontein to Heuningvlei.

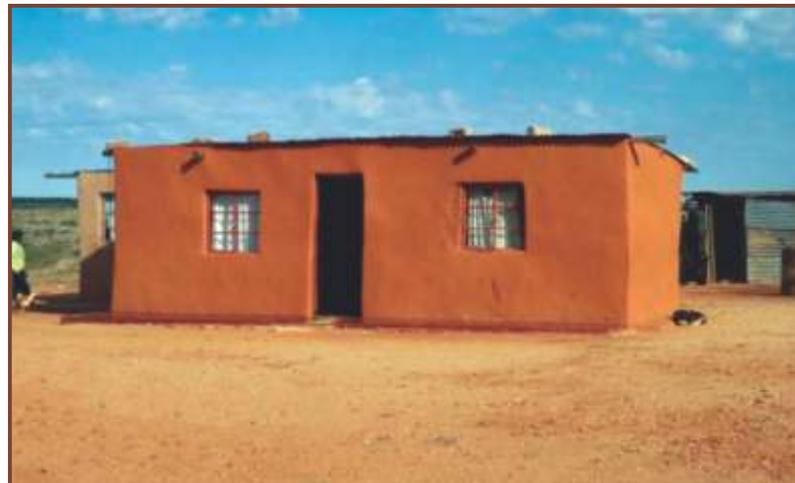
Water is a scarce basic amenity in Heuningvlei. The area experience low rainfall in summer period. Consequently, this paves way for prolonged and severe draught. It is with no doubt that the only reliable source of water for consumption is ground water and this is on account of lack of surface water in many areas.

In terms of job opportunities, there is a high level of unemployment in the area. This dictates that majority of people are dependent on the financial resources of minority. Agriculture and Mining activities are a breadline for the local economic development.

Agricultural activities occupy 154,570 hectares, dominated by livestock farming. Farming in this area is communal in nature. This poses a challenge in the infrastructure with specific reference to fencing. Notwithstanding the challenges, communal farming embraces and embeds the spirit of 'Vukuzenzele'.

Through this farming process, many households cultivate

their own subsistence crops for own use. There is a paradigm shift in young people of Heuningvlei as many are gradually moving towards farming. Women are at the forefront of agricultural activities.



An informal settlement in Heuningvlei



The clinic at Heuningvlei

Proposed plans as per the needs of the CRDP site

Category	Challenges	Proposed Interventions
Electricity	No electricity in Heuningvlei Madibeng, and other areas Few areas have access to electricity such as Laxey.	There is a need for the supply of the electricity in areas such as Madibeng and Heuningvlei.
Roads	All main roads are gravel except in Laxey where the main road is tarred. All internal roads are in poor condition.	All the internal roads should be upgraded and maintained. There is a need for maintenance of gravel roads especially the main roads, whereby at least five cars pass per hour.
Water Supply	Most households do not have access to piped water. However there are a few households in some rural areas such as Laxey that have communal water taps. Madibeng community obtain water from the windmill.	Investigate the feasibility of supplying these households with tap water connection per yard.
Education	Madibeng has 1 primary school and 1 middle school which has grade 5 to grade 9. The high school is available in Heuningvlei which is approximately 48 km from Madibeng.	Investigate the threshold population to support the provision of high schools in villages where there are no secondary education facilities.
Recreational Center	There are no facilities for the youth such as library, parks, child and youth support centre and a community hall. There is however a soccer field in areas such as Heuningvlei.	Investigate the provision of sport complex. Consider revitalizing of existing community halls.



Proposed plans as per the needs of the CRDP site



Category	Challenges	Proposed Interventions
Agriculture	<p>There are currently no existing communal agricultural projects in all the villages, main reason being the lack of water resource.</p> <p>Goat farming and cattle farming is evident in all the communities. The community of Madibeng needs assistance with goat farming projects.</p>	<p>Provide support to the development of communal gardens/farming projects.</p> <p>Provide support for the revitalization of soda ash deposit at Heuningvlei.</p>
Health	<p>Madibeng community travels long distances to healthcare facilities in the Heuningvlei area.</p> <p>The communities rely on an ambulance when there is an emergency. The community of Laxey has one Primary Health Centre, however it operates only during the week and closes 4pm every day.</p>	<p>The Department of Health needs to provide a mobile clinic in areas where there are no clinics.</p>
Public Transport	<p>The main form of public transport is 2 minibus taxis. Residents from Heuningvlei travel long distances to areas of employment such as Kuruman.</p> <p>The community rely on hitch-hiking for transport, where they are expected to pay about R50 (fifty rands) for a one way trip to town (Kuruman).</p>	<p>Investigate the possibility of extending a public bus service and minibuses to and from around Kuruman</p>

SOLAR PANEL PROJECT rolled out in Heuningvlei

Text and Pictures: Phemelo Manankong

The MEC for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Mr Norman Shushu launched the Solar Panel Project in Heuningvlei on 30 March 2011. The launch was part of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) which is one of the key priorities of government. The project which is named the "Light up our Rural Communities" is intended to provide an off-grid safe, eco-friendly and efficient energy supply to these communities.

The implementation of this programme was in-conjunction with the Finnish Embassy and the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

At least two hundred households are expected to benefit from this significant project. The Northern Cape Provincial Government has set aside an amount of R 3 million for the installation of solar panels in the area.

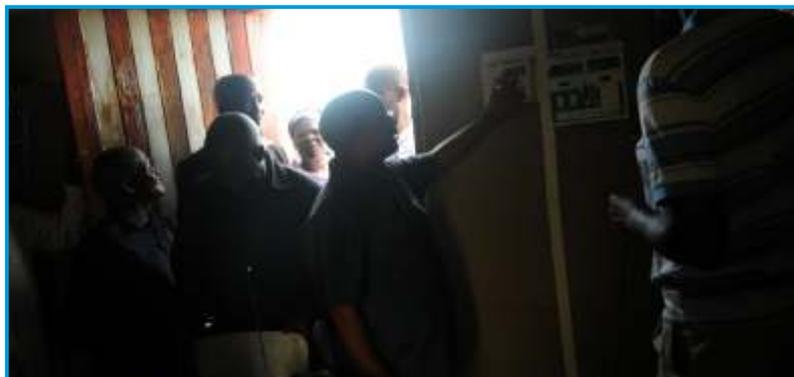
In his keynote address, MEC Shushu mentioned that government and stakeholders have set aside R88 million for the provision of water for both community and livestock in the area. MEC Shushu assured Dikgosi and the community that issues pertaining to basic infrastructure will be addressed, thus ensuring job creation which will in turn change the lives of the community.

Local Chief, Kgosi Tlotlang Bareki said he was thrilled as the project will benefit all the community especially those who are struggling to make ends meet.

He further highlighted that the solar panel project will help his community as people could not afford the connection of electricity. "Others had to use candles but will now be able to light their houses through the assistance of the solar panel project", said Kgosi Tlotlang Bareki.

One of the beneficiaries was an elated Mr David Molale who is unemployed. Mr Molale said the project came in handy for his family as they never thought it possible that the area would be supplied with electricity.

The CRDP programme is intended to supply the Heuningvlei, Schmidtsdrift and other rural communities throughout the province with solar panels.



from darkness to light



MEC Norman Shushu switches on the light



Community members happy about the solar panel launch



Unveiling of the multi-million Rooibos Tea Project

Text and Pictures: Phemelo Manankong



A multi-million rand Rooibos Tea Project was launched by government on the 8 May 2011 in Nieuwoudtville. The aim of the launch was to highlight the significance of the Rooibos Tea processing and packaging in the Province. The tea will be used by HDI Commercial Farmers and Non HDI Commercial Farmers to improve their living conditions which will assist to banish famine and land hunger.

The project seeks to uplift the living conditions, create numerous job opportunities and prosperity for all. With initiatives such as this by government, certainly "restriction of land ownership on racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it.

Government has invested an amount of R 160 million towards the project. The Rooibos Tea project is an initiative of the Department in-conjunction with the Rooibos tea producers in Nieuwoudtville, and the Suid-Bokkeveld area.

Addressing a packed-to-capacity stadium, who was overwhelmed with excitement said that the Nieuwoudtville Rooibos Tea initiative seeks to uplift smallholder farmers in the province. Minister Tina Joemat-Petterson further said, "Ek het opset nie 'opkomende' boere genome nie, maar smallholder"boere instead. Ons moet die naam 'opkomende' vir altyd begrawe, want die 'smallholder' boere het alreeds die mas



Processing equipment at the Rooibos Tea Plant

opgekom. "Hulle sou nie 'n projek van hierdie omvang staangemaak het as hulle steeds opkomend was nie. Tot wanneer gaan hulle steeds opkomend wees? Hulle het reeds die mas opgekom en ons trots gemaak het met hierdie projek".

On the other hand, the Chairperson of Nieuwoudtville Emerging Farmers, Mr Dirk van der Merwe expressed his gratitude for what the department and other stakeholders like commercial farmers have done for them.

Rooibos Tea Project



Premier Hazel Jenkins officially launched the project



Minister Tina Joematt-Petterson flagged by members of the provincial executive council

Mr van der Merwe further stated that, " Die Department van Lanbou Noorkaap hulp ons met implemente, kunsmis, vervoers, brandstof en voorligting. Die opkomende boere is positief oor die Nieuwoudtville Rooibos Aanleg. Daar is ook etlike kommersiële boere wat voortdurend as mentors optree.

The uniqueness of the Rooibos Tea project in this area has warranted an exploration of opportunities for resource based economic activities.



Mr Gert Steenkamp explaining the rooibos tea processing phases

Benefits of Rooibos Tea

- Rooibos tea is naturally caffeine free
- It has a low tannin content (tannin is a bitter compound)
- It is naturally sweet because of the low tannin content)
- It has a high level of antioxidants
- It is purported to assist with nervous tension allergies and digestive problems
- Traditional medicinal uses include colic, allergy, asthma and dermatological problems

Rooibos Tea Facts

- The tea is an indigenous endemic plant to South Africa which grows and occurs only in the Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces.
- In the Northern Cape it only grows in Nieuwoudtville and Suid-Bokkeveld area.
- The plant is shredded, fermented and dried in order to produce a sought after and high value normal tea.

Rift Valley Fever Outbreak: An Update

Text: Dr Karin Dreyer
Pictures: Phemelo Manankong and Dr Dreyer

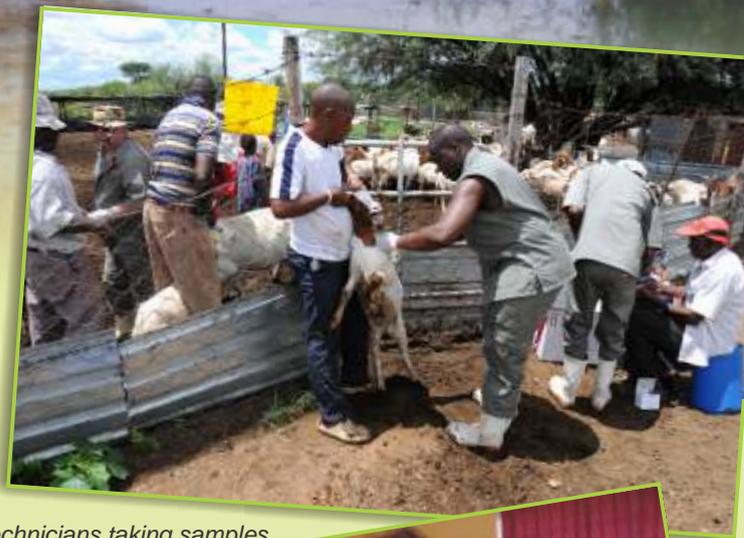
The good rains contributed to increased numbers of mosquitoes and midges and concurrently a much higher incidence of various insect-borne diseases such as Rift Valley Fever, Bluetongue and African Horse Sickness.

With rains all over us since 2010, the Animal Health personnel have been kept busy trying to control the spread of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in the province. Through the Department's efforts and co-operation of farmers, high numbers of livestock have been vaccinated throughout the Northern Cape.

A few cases were reported in the Calvinia and De Aar areas. In Calvinia, four farms were affected which included two human cases exposed to diseased animals. Meanwhile several farms were affected in De Aar, however no human cases were reported. It is envisaged that due to the drop in temperature and the onset of frost, the disease will be curtailed.

The following control measures were implemented:

- Purchasing and distribution of 100 000 doses of Rift Valley Fever vaccine.
- Help to resource-poor farmers with the vaccination of susceptible stock under supervision of a veterinary official using a new needle for each animal.
- Sampling on farms with mortalities and abortions by local animal health technicians or state veterinarians.
- The wearing of protective clothing by officials handling sick animals, fetuses or carcasses. Minimum protective clothing included masks, gloves, goggles, overalls and boots.
- Disposal of carcasses by burning or burying.
- Education of farmers on vaccinations and additional control measures such as weekly spraying of stock with insecticide, moving of animals away from standing water and moving of animals to high altitude areas.



Technicians taking samples to test for RVF



The wearing of goggles, masks and gloves is essential when handling a possible RVF case



Collection of a liver sample from an aborted fetus to test for the presence of RVF virus

Floods ravage the province

Text and pictures by: Stephen Moseki

During the summer season of 2010-2011 the province experienced unusual rainfall that wrecked havoc in four Districts in the province. In these districts, 15 municipalities were affected. The affected districts were Frances Baard, Namakwa, Siyanda and the Pixley Ka-Seme. This severely damaged houses, bridges, agricultural implements and crops such as grapes.

As a result of this, a national disaster team was constituted to deal with the flood devastation.

During his budget vote, MEC Norman Shushu highlighted the impact that the floods had on the socio-economic conditions on the farming communities around the Siyanda District.

Because of the damaged caused by floods in the said districts, the National Disaster Management led by Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Mr Sicelo Shiceko was left with no options but to declare the districts disaster areas. According to a statement by the Ministry, Agriculture was severely affected at the Siyanda District, were crops, farm houses, pumps and implements were submersed under water.

The MEC highlighted that the uncharacteristically high rainfall during January and February resulted in significant losses for both wine and dry grape producers of the Lower Orange.

"Wine grape deliveries was down by 25 percent to approximately 120 000 tons while dry grape intake was almost 60 percent down on the 2009/10 season with only 20 000 tons produced. The impact of the lower wine and dry grape production meant a loss of approximately R300 million to these producers. This will impact severely on the security of jobs in this industry, said MEC Shushu."

The Department in conjunction with Sasko handed over loaves of bread and food parcels to the 23 households affected by the floods.



Loaves of bread handed over to families affected by the floods



Water level at Griekwastad



Water level rises in Griekwastad

Meet the faces behind 'Temothuo News'

Text: Maria Matshogo
Picture: Alfonso Fredericks



*The Editorial Team: Standing from left: Mr Phemelo Manankong, Mr Siphon Mbaqa and Mr Ashley Delpont
Seated from left: Ms Maria Matshogo, Ms Bongwiwe Thatelo, Ms Tshepisho Sebeela and Ms Lerato Khaziwa*

Siphon Mbaqa: Acting Senior Manager- Known as the linchpin of Communication Services, Mr Mbaqa has a wealth of experience in media relations and communications environment. He is further sharpening his skills through a Developmental Communication Programme offered by the University of Witwatersrand. He previously worked as the Media Liaison Officer in the Ministry of Treasury. Mr Mbaqa leads a team of passionate and highly skilled communication specialists. He holds the baton and stirs the directorate in the right direction through his strategic leadership.

Bongwiwe Thatelo: Acting Manager: She has worked as a 'Frontline Practitioner' in the Office of the Premier (North West Province) and this is what molded her professional footing. She has proven that through hard work, the sky is the limit. Ms Thatelo has been breaking communication barriers since the inception of the directorate and believes there's still a long way to go. She is passionate about what she does and is a professional team player. Ms Thatelo supports the Acting Senior Manager in ensuring that the Strategic Objective of the directorate is delivered. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication.

Phemelo Manankong: External Communications Officer: Better known as the journalist of the department, this experienced journo has worked at the SABC as a radio journalist. He is utilizing his skills to make sure that the department receives positive coverage on local and national media. He holds a Diploma in Journalism and is currently doing his Bachelor of Arts in Communication Science with Unisa.

Stephen Moseki: Events and Exhibition Coordinator – He is enthusiastic about the coordination of events in the department. Mr Moseki appreciates that the corporate identity of the department has to be visible at all times during events.

Ashley Delpont: Graphic Designer –Mr Delpont has worked as a Graphic Designer at Treasury. He thrives in turning dull to glam through his skill. Mr Delpont's designs have added a new dimension on the corporate identity of the department. He has certificates in Desktop Publishing, Internet and Web Design.

Tshepisho Sebeela: Internal Communication Officer: The experience she acquired in marketing and branding during her working days at one of South Africa's biggest banks 'ABSA', has added impetus on how the directorate should be firm in adhering to the do's and don'ts of the corporate identity of the department. She regularly keeps you updated on departmental activities via our well developed internal media. She holds a certificate in Public Relations and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Science with Unisa.

Maria Matshogo: Secretary: Amazingly she breaks the barriers and misconception that Secretaries are confined to serving tea and typing minutes. She has proven that each person can contribute more than expected. Ms Matshogo is the Executive Office Coordinator, who ensures the smooth operation of her administrative obligations by making sure the directorate delivers on its objectives. She is pursuing her Diploma in Human Resource Management through the Northern Cape Urban FET College.

Lorato Khaziwa: Web Administrator – Government Communication and Information Services has laid a solid foundation for her career path. She acquired expertise which made her develop passion to work in the communications environment. Ms Khaziwa holds a certificate in Marketing Communication and is further pursuing her Marketing Diploma through the Free State Central University of Technology. She uploads and updates information on the web portal for your convenience.



Change Management Project yields positive results for the department

Text: Lorato Banda
Picture: Phemelo Manankong

In October 2010 the staff of the department, having reflected on the challenges and previous efforts to address them, resolved amongst other things that the department should “facilitate for a change management process aimed at transforming the organisation, diversity management and improve delivery of services”. True to this commitment management appointed a consulting company to facilitate a planned changed process.

This project has been implemented since January 2011. However a number of staff still ask what is change management? Stoner et al (2001) defines planned change (change management) as the “systematic attempt to redesign an organization in a way that will help it adapt to significant changes in the environment and to achieve new goals”.

In our environment, many things have changed such as the mandate of the department, the political leadership, technologies and even the economic environment. These changes require the organization to find new and innovative ways not only to adapt but motivate staff towards improved delivery of quality services.

So what do we intend to achieve with the change management process? There are at least two reasons for this process. In the first instance, the intention was to change the attitudes, values and behaviour of people (organizational culture). The assumption is that when the organizational culture changes positively the foundation is laid for structural and process changes aimed at improving delivery and quality of services.

In this assumption lies the second main reason for planned change which is to improve departmental processes and structure. Communication strategy, supply chain and HR processes, organizational structure and adoption of policies are all elements of process and structural change.

The implementation of the change management project in the department has made considerable progress in relation to process and structural issues. For instance the organizational structure is almost complete, policies have been reviewed and new ones developed, and PMDS training is underway. In addition,



Staff members attending the Change Management introductory session

management implemented most of the resolutions of the Staff Indaba including promotion of staff in lower levels, communication and of course the implementation of the change management project. So, in relation to processes and structure one can comfortably say things are changing.

On the down side, some issues have not been adequately addressed. These include attitudes; interpersonal relations; relations between management and all employees of the department; and perhaps to a limited extent staff morale remains low.

In a nutshell the organizational culture remains the same. The truth is without discovering and adopting new attitudes, values and behaviours by all employees including management it is difficult for any meaningful change to occur. In the final analysis, there must be a balance between the process, structural and people issues. After all is said and done, the questions we all need to ask ourselves are: does our behaviour embrace or resist change?

What can I contribute to make this department a different and better place to work at? Our individual contribution remains important in changing the department.

Remarkable Botanist/Biologist

Text: Bongwiwe Thatelo
Picture: Roberta Burgess

It is a progressive, remarkable and ever evolving profession; its mention transmits shivering thrills inside the human brain. It is the profession which gave rise to the department's own self driven Botanist/Biologist, Ms Roberta Burgess, who is fearless and determined to reach greater heights.

For this Kimberlite born 'Botanist/Biologist' the love for nature was introduced and sealed in her early childhood. During this stage, Ms Burgess shared a profound bond with her parents. Her father, a former school principal dedicated his time and limited resources to his children and the community he served, while her mother ensured that they learn the basic rules of life. When the elites took their children on extravagant vacations, her father made an investment in his offspring by taking them on fun educational tours. Her mind blossomed incredibly through interaction with rural communities and visits to places like the ostrich and crocodile farms in Oudtshoorn and visits to the forest and "big" tree in Knysna during that phase.

Meanwhile, Ms Burgess has a basket of academic credentials; there is no petite doubt that these contributed to her wealth of experience in Research and Development. After completing her B. Sc (Honors) in Botany at the University of the Western Cape, this alma-mata worked at the institution as the Acting Curator of the Cape Flats Nature Reserve for a few months. It was during this time when Ms Burgess applied for and was awarded a scholarship to pursue her Masters Degree in Biology at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in the United States of America. While in this programme, she had a number of different jobs which included among them the maintenance of the greenhouse, animal cages and cleaning thereof. Her own research involved working with an entomologist, investigating insect /plant interaction but investigating from the plant's perspective. This certainly unlocked her potential, unveiled hidden talents and presented a breeding ground for more opportunities which broadened her horizon. This self driven leader recently obtained her MBA in Environmental Management from Rhodes University. So what do we call her now?Stunned!

Ms Burgess started her research career as a research technician at the South African Apple and Pear Producers Association (SAAPPA), and UNIFRUCO Research Services, breeding biological control agents for the control of the redspider mite. On enrolling for a PhD with Rhodes University she was promoted from technician to junior researcher and this opened a new chapter in Ms Burgess's life. This was the transition from a 'Botanist/Biologist' to a Researcher'. She later joined the Agricultural Research Council in the Entomology division and the 'Sustainable Rural Livelihood programme. This programme concentrated largely on



Ms Roberta Burgess clearly shows where her passion lies

training small scale farmers in the fruit and vegetable industry. Her tasks were to train the farmers in pest and disease management.

Currently, Ms Burgess manages the Research and Technology Development programme which has seven Research Stations throughout the Northern Cape Province. Applied research is done in collaboration with other research partners. Key to this programme is the coordination of research in crop and animal production, veld/natural resource management and the transferring of appropriate technology to farmers. Her team works selflessly to forge strong ties with other research organizations, big agricultural co-operation's such as GWK, Senwes, commodity organizations in both crop and animal production and tertiary institutes. On the other hand, Ms Burgess maintains international linkages through regular interaction with her counterparts in the USA and has a strong interest to build closer links with research organizations in African countries, including our neighbours Namibia and Botswana. Seemingly her life does not only revolve around being a workaholic and what others may refer to as 'a book worm'. At some point in her life, she was involved in a youth project called 'Usiko', which assisted to usher girls and boys into adulthood. Her passion to help young people came out very strongly when she highlighted her future plans. She supports the establishment of the university in the province and reckons that a study should be commissioned to assess what the impact is on the Northern Cape's economy when sending young people to study outside the province. Her other most dear desire is to see young people participate in the agriculture value chain, and this can be attained through the development of 'center of excellence' institutions.

There are several basic things we didn't know about Ms Burgess. She enjoys hiking, knitting and crouchets during her spare time.

Your financial outlook for 2011/12

Text: Bongive Thatelo
Pictures: Phemelo Manankong

The budget outlook for the year under review was sketched out in the legislature recently. It gave an overview of what the department anticipates to achieve in the 2011/12 financial year.

The overall Departmental allocation for the 2011/12 financial year is R357 084 million. Of the R357 084 million allocated, the equitable share constitutes 61 percent while 39 percent pertains to conditional grants.

Budget per programmes

Programme 1: Administration

This programme is allocated an amount of R73 416 million in the 2011/12 financial year.

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management

This programme is allocated an amount of R21 047 million of which R 6,355 million will be allocated towards the LandCare Programme.

Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development

The programme is allocated R163 411 million.

Programme 4: Veterinary Services

This programme is allocated an amount of R32 809 million in the 2011/12 financial year.

Programme 5: Technology Research and Development

The programme is allocated R39 518 million to continue providing research and information services to ensure the competitive capacity of its clients during the 2011/12 financial year. Strong focus will be on the development and expansion of human resource capacity in the Programme.

Programme 6: Agricultural Economics

The directorate is allocated an amount of R12 500 million in the 2011/12 financial year.

Programme 7: Rural Development

The programme is allocated R14 383 million to coordinate the intervention programmes of all departments and institutions in rural areas.



The Head of Department, Mr Viljoen Mothibi with Senior Managers at the Budget Vote



Senior Managers listening attentively to the presentation of the Budget Vote



The Story of Oom "Freddy"

Text and picture by: Alfonso Fredricks



Oom Freddy and Ms Bartlet after exchanging their vows.

As we meet people in life, we come to the realisation of our own being and learn more about cultural diversity and personality traits. Certain people leave special trademarks in our lives. This could happen in a single moment, longer period and others become a crucial part of our lives. Now I believe Freddy Bartlett, 'Oom Freddy' as he is affectionately known, is that special person.

Born and bred in the province, Oom Freddy is a very good example of what the people of the Northern Cape symbolise. There is constantly a breath of fresh air when he is around the people. His personality trait is mirrored through his tranquil and humane character.

He started working in 1999 at the Department of Nature Conservation as a casual worker. Ever since he was appointed permanently by the department as the messenger, Oom Freddy has never looked back. He performs his duties with zeal and diligence, and believes that hard work is the only weapon through which a person

can use to achieve their set goals. If he is not working at lunch time, you'll find Oom Freddy in what has become known as his "Head Office" under an old tree on the premises. Meanwhile, sitting under the tree reminds Oom Freddy of the folklores narrated to him as a child. Those stories undoubtedly translated him into a 'story teller'. Surely with the Northern Cape's culture running through his veins, Oom Freddy is able to identify a variety of medicinal herbs and plants. Now that's what we call "Natuurlike Talent".

Oom Freddy recently got married to his partner of nineteen years. This was achieved through the assistance of the Employee Wellness Unit. Mr Bartlet feels like a respected man now that he is married, and encourages other co-habiting partners to do the honourable thing and get married. During his leisure time, he enjoys watching his favourite soccer team 'Kaiser Chiefs' play on TV. Gardening and beautifying his home are other activities which keeps Oom Freddy busy on weekends.

Lessons learnt from China

Text: Maria Matshogo and Phemelo Manankong
Pictures: Phemelo Manankong



Our colleagues visited China from 25-29 April 2011. The purpose of this trip was to acquire training on translation equipment which the department has procured. This equipment will assist the department to save costs of outsourcing this service during internal and external participation sessions. We take a closer look at what Messrs Ali Diteme, Maanoafedile Dibane, Phemelo Manankong and Ms Sebeela have learnt during their trip to China.

Eight questions were posed for them to share lessons learnt during their skills development trip.

Tell us about your trip to China.

Ali Diteme: It was a wonderful experience, China is not what we thought it is perceived, the second biggest economy in the world which boost massive infrastructure.

Maanoafedile Dibane: It was an eye opener, I admired the road Infrastructure, the transportation system and the total commitment of the Custom officials in the work they do.

Phemelo Manankong: Despite the journey being long and tiring it was a wonderful and exciting experience.

Tshepisho Sebeela: I felt nervous during the flight because I did not know what to expect when I got to China. It also got uncomfortable having to sit for such a long time. But I was also excited as it was my first trip abroad.



The team leaving the hotel on the way to the Hong Kong airport

Was it your first trip abroad?

Ali Diteme: Yes, the long trip in the plane was the experience as well.

Maanoafedile Dibane: Morwa Manankong yes, definitely if I can be given two or more such trips I will appreciate it.

Phemelo Manankong: From out of Africa, yes. I have only been out of the country.

Tshepisho Sebeela: Yes it was.



The team during training at Gonsin

How will this benefit the department?

Ali Diteme: Firstly it will save cost, no longer going to hire it anytime we have events, secondly it will address the communication barriers between the employees and the various communities in the province.

Maanoafedile Dibane: Yes it is absolutely necessary as we used to hire these equipments at an exorbitant price and yet you find some not working like in Upington where we have Staff Indaba.

Mr P Manankong: In the past, whenever the Department had summits or other big events, we had to hire translation equipment from service providers. It is very expensive to do so.

Ms Sebeela: It would help us with the language challenges we are facing and it would also save costs.

In your opinion was this a good initiative?

Mr Ali Diteme: Yes it was a good initiative as it seeks to bridge the digital device.

Mr Maanoafedile Dibane: It was definitely a good initiative as

Lessons learnt from China

we were hiring equipments and the Department will save a lot and also a number of out-reach programmes like various summits annually.

Phemelo Manankong: It is a good initiative as the Department will be saving cost and the language will no longer pose as a problem as these equipment will assist us accordingly.

Tshepisho Sebeela: Yes, if the Department procured these tools without officials getting the relevant training, it would be a futile exercise as the Department would have to hire someone to operate the tools.

What challenges did you get in your interaction with another culture?

Ali Diteme: Language and food.

Maanoafedile Dibane: Mainly the language but signs assisted us a lot.

Phemelo Manankong: Language of course. However a bit of sign language came handy. Further, there was not much of a challenge as we had a briefing about Chinese Culture before we went abroad.

Tshepisho Sebeela: The challenges were language and eating habits but we were briefed about Chinese culture before we left.



Snakes are a common delicacy served in restaurants

The main language in the province you visited is Mandarin; did you at least learn the basics before you left?

Ali Diteme: I have done a research and familiarize myself with the basics.

Maanoafedile Dibane: I have learned some basics like greetings and how are you.

Phemelo Manankong: Yes. We learned the basics before we left.

Tshepisho Sebeela: Of course! Thank you, and Greetings.

Chinese are very proud of their food; kindly fill us on your experience with the food and chopsticks

Ali Diteme: I know how to use chopsticks now thanks to my Chinese friend David Hu.

Maanoafedile Dibane: Basically I did not have problems with the food and the chopsticks as you have heard David Hu said I was good.

Phemelo Manankong: Well, the Chinese are a very giving nation. They serve food in abundance and they make you feel like family with their generosity by always filling your plate or glass.

Tshepisho Sebeela: I had no challenges with the chopsticks as I used them before. Honestly, I loved the food. They steam most of their food which makes it healthy.



The team outside a Chinese restaurant

In Chinese culture, burping enthusiastically is a sign of appreciation. How did you find this behavior?

Ali Diteme: When in Rome do as Romans do, therefore I did not encounter any problems.

Maanoafedile Dibane: It was not nice to be honest, but to them it was just normal.

Phemelo Manankong: It was my first experience, but I had to adjust and get used to the fact that we are of different cultures and that whatever we do have some significance to our culture.

Tshepisho Sebeela: I did not experience that but I was challenged by the public toilets for the ladies, one has to squat!! For me it is a health hazard.

I guess it was not all work and no fun. Did you manage to get free time to shop? If so is it true that China has quality and is more affordable than in our country?

Ali Diteme: Yes I did manage for exclusive staff and other items for my friends.

Maanoafedile Dibane: Phemelo one did see items of good quality even though one did not get an opportunity to look for electronic equipment but time was not on our side.

Phemelo Manankong: Yes, there was indeed a variety of shops that sell a good quality of everything and most of them are cheaper. I left South Africa with a tiny bag, but came back with quite a huge one!!! My best buy was this Omega watch.

Tshepisho Sebeela: Of course I went shopping. My best buy was the sunglasses. I bought 18 pairs. The shops open till after 11pm.

Procedures to be followed when importing plants and plant products into South Africa

Co-ordinated by: Lerato Khaziwa



Before importing into South Africa, an importer should:

1. Find out the phytosanitary import conditions that apply to the commodity to be imported by consulting the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) or the National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa (NPPOZA) within the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).
2. Apply for an import permit from the DAFF if the commodity to be imported is not exempted from an import permit in terms of the Act referred to above. If the commodity to be imported is exempted from an import permit, ensure compliance with phytosanitary measures for such exemption.
3. When applying for an import permit, submit the completed application form together with proof of payment. The tariff information with regard to the issuance of import permits and the application form are available on the departmental website (www.daff.gov.za »Divisions »Plant health» Importing into South Africa).
4. Forward a copy of the import permit to the exporter or supplier in the exporting country to ensure that the consignment to be exported meets the phytosanitary import requirements of South Africa.
5. Ensure that the exporter or supplier presents the commodity to be imported to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country for phytosanitary inspection and certification where necessary in terms of the permit and/or exemption requirements.
6. Inform the exporter or supplier to send the original phytosanitary certificate with the consignment to South Africa (if a phytosanitary certificate is required).

Procedures to be followed when imported commodities arrive at the port of entry in South Africa:

1. South African Revenue Services (SARS) will detain the commodities for inspection.
2. DAFF inspector/s from NPPOZA will inspect the consignment together with the accompanying documents.
3. The following may happen following inspection of the imported commodities.
 - (a) If the consignment meets the import requirements, it will be released by the DAFF inspector/s.
 - (b) If the consignment does not meet the import requirements, risk management measures will be recommended whereafter a consignment may either be treated and released, sent back to the country of origin or destroyed. Once the consignment has been released by the DAFF inspector/s, the importer or his/ her agent must take the import documents to SARS for final release.



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Postal address: National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa (NPPOZA)
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Directorate: Plant Health
Import Permit Office * Private Bag X14 * Gezina * 0031
Contact numbers: Tel +27 12 319 6102/ 6396/ 6130/ 6383
Fax +27 12 319 6370 * E-mail JeremiahMA@daff.gov.za or
AnitaSN@daff.gov.za or ShashikaM@daff.gov.za or BenJK@daff.gov.za
Physical address: 542 or 543 Harvest House
30 Hamilton Street * Arcadia * Pretoria

The search for the province's best female entrepreneur has begun!

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in the Northern Cape unveiled its search for the province's best female farmers in the Female Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 Competition. The competition acknowledges women as the lifeline of society and the custodians of food security whose role is important in improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products through improved delivery, innovation and excellence.

Entries are awaited in the six categories:

- **Best Female Worker**
- **Best Subsistence Producer**
- **Top Young Entrepreneur**
- **Top Entrepreneur: Smallholder**
- **Top Entrepreneur: Commercial**
- **Top Entrepreneur Export Market**

Former entrants were encouraged to re-enter this year's Female Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 Competition and with the past category winners expected to compete for honours in other categories.

The closing date for this year's entries was the 14th of June 2011.



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
agriculture, land reform & rural development
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

“A transformed, vibrant agricultural sector
for food security and sustainable rural development.”

New appointments

Name and Surname	Post	Directorate
Mr Ashley Delport	Graphic Designer	Communication Services
Ms Nomsa Hammer	Secretary	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
Ms P Makebe	Administration Officer	Financial Management
Mr Phillip Riet	Senior Manager	Financial Management
Ms BC Segolodi	Secretary	Farmer Settlement

Transfers

Ms L Khaziwa	Web Administrator	Communication Services
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Resignations

Mr K Bapela	Manager: Project Management	Extension & Advisory Services
Mr L Lekgetho	Assistant Manager - GIS	Corporate Services
Mr L Piki	Assistant Manager	Farmer Settlement & Rural Development
Ms S Wilke	Agricultural Economist	Agricultural Economics

Retirements

Initials & Surname	Center
MF Makgale	Heunaar
TA Thebe	Jan Kemp
AJ Meremetsi	Kuruman
MI Mashishi	Kuruman
AJ Motlola	Kuruman
TB Biekies	Kuruman
A van der Poll	Springbok

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Protea Hof Building
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Fax: (053) 631 0564

Upcoming Events

Mandela Day	July 2011
Female Entrepreneur of the Year 2011	August 2011
Science Week	August 2011
Landcare Week	September 2011
Aquaculture Summit	September 2011
Rabies Week	September 2011