

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### 2011 MEDIA ADVISORIES AND STATEMENTS

#### Free State Youth Camps and Cultural Events

24 November 2011

Theme: "Our Heritage, Our Pride"

Government has agreed on 12 Outcomes as a key focus of work between now and 2014. Each outcome has a limited number of measurable outputs with targets. Each output is linked to a set of activities that will help achieve the targets and contribute to the outcome. Each of the 12 outcomes has a delivery agreement which in most cases involve all spheres of government and a range of partners outside government. Combined, these agreements reflect government's delivery and implementation plans for its foremost priorities.

In response to this mandate, the MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mr Dan Kgothule, has embarked on a programme to address Outcome 12 part B which talks about "An Empowered, Fair and Inclusive Citizenship". The Outcome 12 part B has the following outputs which need to be realised through activities:

- Nation Building and National Identity
- Citizen Participation
- Social Cohesion.

Part of the programme adopted by MEC Kgothule to address Outcome 12 is the introduced of a concept of Youth Camps and Cultural Evenings targeting specifically young people who are in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

100 Students who are bursary holders of the Free State Provincial Government Bursary Scheme and studying in the Free State will participate in the Inaugural Youth Camps and Cultural Evenings programme that will be staged as follows:

Date: 30 November to 4 December 2011

Venue: Basotho Cultural Village (Qwa Qwa)

Students have been selected based on the number enrolled at a particular HEI and merit as per their performance in the June Examinations. The HEIs include Boston College, Central University of Technology, DAMELIN, Flavius Mareka FET, Free State School of Nursing, Glen College, Goldfields FET, Maluti FET, Motheo FET, PC Training Business College, Stanford Business College and University of Free State.

The main objectives of the programme are:

- Creation of an interactive platform for young people in discussing challenges they are faced with;
- Understanding and redefining the role young people should play in shaping their province and history for the better;
- To better position young people as agents of change and leaders of societal change in the province; and 4) To form long term partnership with young people that will lead our province to its full realisation of youth development.

Today our struggle has entered a new epoch. With the same spirit as the 1976 generation, young people in the Free State must proceed to be responsible and be first to occupy the forward ranks in the struggle for the reconstruction and development of their province in general. They must be in the forefront in the struggle to defeat the scourges of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, drugs and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, HIV and AIDS; criminality and ignorance.

Issued by: Free State Agriculture and Rural Development

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**Free State Department of Agriculture through the Veterinary Services Unit would like to caution all the farmers about the eminent Rift Valley fever outbreak**

4 January 2011

The above average rainfall seen in this past week spells an inevitable consequence of yet another Rift Valley fever outbreak. This persistent heavy rainfall causes the shallow water surfaces and/or water pans in the province to become flooded, which with warm weather conditions promote breeding of mosquitoes. Rift Valley fever is a viral disease of cattle, sheep and goats, characterised by deaths of newborn lambs/calves and abortions in ewes/cows. A specific species of mosquitoes transmit this viral disease whilst feeding on these animals.

Human beings become infected from handling tissues or organs of diseased animals. The infection in humans is serious and is occasionally a life threat. It presents with severe muscle and joint pains, high fever, severe headaches, blurred vision as possible symptoms. According to Communicable Disease Communiqué which is a publication of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, the outbreak of this disease during 2010 resulted in a recording of a total of 232 human cases, 26 of which died from the disease following handling sick or dead animals.

Control of the disease in animals is through vaccination of animals as the only effective method to protect livestock; farmers are therefore advised to vaccinate their animals against Rift Valley fever annually. Control of mosquitoes through weekly dipping, use of insect repellent sprays or pour-ons e.t.c. offer some valuable input in the control of the disease. Rift Valley fever is a notifiable disease in terms of the Animal Disease Act, not a controlled disease. Therefore, it remains the responsibility of the animal owners to vaccinate their animals to prevent losses.

The general public is urged not to handle any sick animals or cut up any dead animals or aborted fetuses. Handling of sick or dead animals should be done whilst wearing protective clothing and protective goggles. Suspicion of the disease e.g. where newly born lambs/calves die in large numbers or abortions in pregnant sheep/cows are observed in a flock/herd, should be reported to the nearest State Vet Office.

The local State Veterinarian can be contacted on the following numbers:

Motheo District:  
Bloemfontein 051 436 3677  
Thaba'Nchu 051 875 1160

Xhariep District:  
Fauresmith 051 723 0032  
Smithfield 051 683 0083

Lejweleputswa District:  
Welkom 057 916 6724  
Hoopstad 053 444 1910

Thabo Mofutsanyana District:  
Bethlehem 058 303 5579  
QwaQwa 058 714 1430

Fezile Dabi District:  
Sasolburg 016 976 2006  
Kroonstad 056 212 3126

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