



## **MEC KHOABANE UNVEILS SHEEP SHEARING FACILITY IN THABA NCHU**

On July 2, Free State MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Oupa Khoabane officially unveiled three projects in Thaba Nchu. The first project to be launched was at Woonhuis farm on the N8 - 30 kilometres to Botshabelo. The project entails a structure built for the milking of goats. The structure was funded by the department.

“The department also assisted me with a cooling facility, where I’m able to store vegetables that I’ve harvested. My market for the vegetables is the Bloemfontein Fresh Produce Market”, said farmer Jacob Cangiso.

The structure for the milking of goats has equipped with the necessary machinery. “I can’t wait to start turning the milk from goats in to cheese”, he added.

MEC Khoabane presented Cangiso with keys to a new vehicle which he will use to transport vegetables to the market.

The second project, which MEC Khoabane launched was at Khumo Farm – on the rural villages outside Thaba Nchu. Mr Robert Thekiso was assisted with a feedlot.

MEC Khoabane was however awaited by a crowd of villages who had gathered at the Bofulo Trust for the official unveiling of the Sheep Shearing facility. The facility was built at an estimated cost of R2, 5 million rand. This includes shearing shed handling facilities and equipment, repairs to the windmill and reservoir.

“This is a flagship project to grow the wool industry and sell the wool to the informal as well as formal market in order to promote the economy and the sheep farming in the Mangaung Metro Municipality”, said Khoabane.

The department has also assisted with 205 merino ewes and 8 merino rams.

There are 10 beneficiaries in this project who are already farming with sheep and have been selected to be part of the sheep and goat value adding project in the district.



“The modernization of the sheep business of Bofulo communal village will put project in a higher trajectory following the support provided by the department. It is very crucial especially for the young people from this area to realize that business and job opportunities in Agricultural sector need dedicated and committed people for more opportunities to unfold because the success of projects such as thi one can attract clothing and blanket factories to come on board and open their businesses near to Bofulo village to save transportation costs. The fact that department has assisted you, it is upon you to ensure that you think bigger to improve the local economy ad save your profit for investments. Working together to move Bofulo forward will be an investment to young people from local and near villages—today’s project symbolizes that this is an introduction of good things coming,” said MEC Khoabane.

Ten community members of Bofulo village under the custody of the tribal authority of Barolong Boo Seleka has been running this project. The headmaster and the beneficiary, Mr Thekisho explained that this project has been operating on a small scale until the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development injected R2, 5 million to expand and involve more community members.

“We are targeting informal and formal markets around Mangaung Metro; at the current stage we market our business through word of mouth, we don’t employ the advanced strategies yet, but with the assistance and support of the department we will definitely achieve our goal. This project has the potential to expand and employ more locals. On behalf of all beneficiaries, we would like to thank the department of Agriculture and Rural Development, our extension officers, including our MEC who works on weekends to ensure that our lives in rural areas are improved. ***Ntate Khoabane morena wa khotso ao etse hantle mmoho le mokgupi o tsamayang le ona, e se kaba mona feela empa le mahaeng a mang ka hare ho foreistata le fihle. Le pakahatsa hore le mmuso wa sechaba ka sechaba mme re leboha ho menahane. Ke ne ke nahana hore hona ke ditshepiso feela empa key a bona hore mamello e tswala katleho, le ba bang ba kgothale nako ya bona e ya tla. Dikeledi tse mahlong a ka ke tsa lethabo, hoba ke ne ke sa kgolwe projeke ya rona e tla fihla maemong ana, ka hona re ya leboha,***” said Thekisho

The MEC added that the modernisation of projects such as Bofulo project will enable beneficiaries an entry into commercial sector since they will be producing quality wool and a processed meat. “We will also assist them going forward by rendering advisory services as well information sessions through



our extension officers to ensure that this project sustain and enhance the lives of the people of Bofulo village because this village has also been selected for the production of wool as part of the sheep and goats value adding projects,” MEC added.

“Other villagers must join hands and come together, especially those who depend on livestock farming and backyard vegetable gardens to share experiences and skills in order to sustain their projects; so as to provide for their families,” said Khoabane.