



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MS NANDI MAYATHULA-KHOZA DURING THE BONTLE KE BOTHO LAUNCH HELD IN MAPHATLALATSANE COMMUNITY HALL ON THE 26 JUNE 2009

- Programme Director, Dr. Murunwa Makwarela
- Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms Nokuthula Sikhakhane
- Members of both National and Provincial Parliaments
- Executive Mayors from various Municipalities
- Speakers from various Municipalities
- Ward and PR Councilors present
- Senior Managers and Officials from all spheres of government present
- Leaders of business, NGO's, and CBO's
- Youth Organisations Present
- all media houses present
- Members of the Communities
- Distinguished
- Ladies and Gentlemen

GOOD DAY.

Programme Director, I am excited to be part of this project which is popularly known as the BkB, meaning Bontle ke Botho. Last year this very same launch took place in Metsweding Region and this year it is

launched here in Sedibeng, a place known for its campaigns in the history of our liberation struggle.

This is the region of the Evaton Azikhwela bus boycott of the 1950's and the anti-pass protest which resulted in the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 took place. It is also the region of bitter campaign against the imposition of the Black Local Authorities and the Vaal uprising of the 3rd September 1984.

It was in this region where the so-called black-on-black and state-sponsored vigilante violence was unleashed on innocent communities which resulted in the Boipatong massacre on the 17th of June, 1992. It is again in this very region where the Anglo-Boer treaty and Constitution of the democratic and free South Africa was signed.

The launch of our Bontle ke Botho campaign in Emfuleni, Sedibeng has long been over due and deserves to be embraced by all of us. There is no way, therefore, that this campaign whose objectives are,

- to mobilise communities and stakeholders from all relevant sectors to participate in the protection and improvement of the environment,
- create awareness around and deepen the understanding of environmental issues,
- promote sustainable living practices by encouraging communities to embark on sustainable environmental projects with a strong focus on poverty alleviation,
- establish of strategic partnerships to ensure collaborative management of the campaign in wards and schools and

- to empower communities through education to ensure their deeper understanding of environmental issues

This campaign also comes as a response to the Gauteng Provincial Government program of action of 2009 to 2013 which is aimed at bridging the gap between rural and urban communities – another means to bring us closer to our vision of creating a competitive world-class city region.

Through this campaign, ladies and gentlemen, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development seeks to contribute towards the commitment made in the 2009 Elections Manifesto, of improving the living conditions of communities and building the potential for rural sustainable livelihoods. We have set ourselves a realistic target to strengthen partnership with communities, focusing on development and fighting poverty.

Colleagues, the successes of government rely on the support it will receive from all role-players, with you, the people, at the driving seat. That is the reason behind our visit today – to bring about a campaign that will accelerate our efforts to renew our communities.

Through this project, we will managed to touch many communities across Gauteng.

In so far as this project is concern, a total of 315 schools, 423 wards and 8 municipalities have benefited directly from the campaign by winning prizes exceeding R27 million which they have used to initiate poverty alleviation projects. These initiatives have also assisted in linking up with the Gauteng Provincial Government Strategic objectives of poverty alleviation, job creation and establishment of sustainable communities.

Ladies and gentlemen let me share with you some of the success stories and the positive impact that this project have made in the livelihood of our communities.

From this many projects that have been initiated in ward and schools, there are some which are unique that I want to share with you.

- Nine recreational parks have been developed in various municipalities from BkB funds. These parks were developed in open spaces which were used for illegal dumping.
- Through BkB funds, schools initiated project such water conservation, energy efficiency and sustainable agriculture. With regard to sustainable agriculture, most schools have established food gardens which are used to supplement feeding schemes. The other important aspect is that schools are using this project for curriculum purposes. This is in line with the current educational policy which places environment as its important component.
- Three classrooms have been built and two of them are energy efficient. Although they meant as a shelter, they are also used as an educational resource.
- In an effort to alleviate poverty, Emfuleni Local Municipality has bought two trucks for a recycling project. The trucks are used to collect waste materials from house holds and other identified locations in the residential areas. The recycling project employed about 172 community members.
- More than 30 water tanks where bought by schools which did not have access to water using the BkB funds.

- Today these schools have drinking water and are able to establish vegetable gardens to supplement their feeding schemes.
- The Ematsheni Primary school managed to buy a school bus using a portion of the BkB funds.

Programme Director, let me acknowledge and concede that these achievements were made possible through the establishment of partnerships and unwavering support that we received from municipalities, communities, schools, businesses, NGOs and CBOs. Furthermore, by localising and aligning the campaign to other programmes of the municipalities.

This will revitalise the municipality functions through planning, development and increase participation, making them leaders in sustainable development of functional and effective partnerships with communities and other stakeholders.

Recently the litter and waste management theme was strengthened through the launch of the Gauteng March towards a Cleaner Environment Campaign and Waste Collection Trolley Project which the department assists the youth to generate income and to familiarize themselves in waste management issues.

This year, BkB will continue to empower our communities in a more vigorous way. In her the state of the Province Address, the Premier Ms Nomvula Mokonyana said that” part of our commitment to promote sustainable development in the province and ensure the effective management of our natural recourses, we will step up community campaigns on cleaning and greening of Gauteng”

In response to the Premier's statement, for the first, municipalities will be running their own municipal cleaning and greening campaigns. This will make this year's campaign more fascinating and make the municipality to have ownership of the campaign. Winners in different municipalities will then have to compete amongst each other on the provincial level. The Prize for the campaign has not changed but still remains at R3 100 000.00 as the presenter already pointed out in the presentation.

Let us use BKB as a tool to strengthen intergovernmental governance and also relations between government, NGO's, CBO and private enterprise and in turn improve the lives of the communities in Gauteng.

I thank you