

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY COBUS DOWRY, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WESTERN CAPE

22 DECEMBER 2005

AGRICULTURE IN THE WESTERN CAPE DELIVERED ON PROMISES AS PART OF THE "KRISMISBOX" CAMPAIGN FOR THE WESTERN CAPE

Premier Ebrahim Rasool announced on 26 September 2005 more than 100 deliverables as part of the "Krismisbox" campaign for the Western Cape. The Department of Agriculture made certain commitments beyond and above its normal day to day activities to these deliverables and with three days before Christmas I am very proud of my Department's efforts in achieving these goals thereby making a difference to ordinary people's lives.

Below a short summary of the goals achieved:

The Directorate of Veterinary Services launched a drive within the Cape Flats area to facilitate the improvement of health and well-being of pets and horses within the area.

· Thus far 297 horses have been micro-chipped as the aim is to create a population of Carthorses on the Cape flats that have all been micro chipped ensuring their safety from theft and enabling more efficient record keeping for disease control as most owners are entirely dependent on their horses for their livelihood. 259 horses have also been dewormed

· The risk of an epidemic of Rabies in the area with risks towards human health necessitated the vaccination of dogs and cats. Thus far 32 772 dogs have been vaccinated with the aim of 50 000 by the end of March 2006. Similarly the aim was to deworm 20 000 dogs and cats on the Cape Flats thus decreasing the risk of transmission of zoonotic parasites being transmitted to the inhabitants of the area. Thus far 32 772 dogs have been vaccinated and dewormed.

The development of the under utilized water resources of the Doring River can create opportunities for new farming development in a part of the country that need development, investments and job creation very urgently. The project is situated in the West Coast region of the Western Cape Province in the vicinity of the towns of Klaver and Vredendal. The water that is available for development can be used to irrigate approximately 5 300 ha. The Department of Agriculture committed itself to deliver the draft report of the feasibility study on the Olifants/Doorn River Dam and Irrigation Project for emerging farmers, before Christmas 2005. This report entails a summary of all the studies e.g. soil, water availability, dam sites, underground water, ecology, social impacts, economy, biodiversity as well as recommendations for the further development options of a dam. The pre-feasibility investigation (draft report) into the development options with the unutilized water resources of the Olifants/Doring Rivers in the Western Cape has been completed before the target date.

The Philippi market initiative by the City of Cape Town and the Provincial Government creates tremendous opportunities. The most important opportunity is the creation of a market for land reform beneficiaries and other previously disadvantaged farmers so that they can derive an income from farming products. In support of the development of the Philippi Urban Agricultural Hub, the Department of Agriculture has committed itself to put into operation a research demonstration field for vegetable crops in order to aid the training and extension programmes for food security and production for the commercial markets. The demonstration field will be operated as a mini Experiment Farm, serving as an "open air laboratory" to demonstrate and test appropriate technologies to the designated clients. This will hugely benefit the emerging farmers and is yet another delivery on the promised "Krismisbox" campaign

An investigation into the relationship between consumers and agriculture in the Western Cape has also been completed. Amongst others the investigation included a survey that has been conducted amongst consumers in urban areas of the Western Cape and will draw attention to the role and perceptions regarding agriculture, changes with economic development and urbanisation.

Lastly the Department of Agriculture has identified the need for a database of approved Western Cape Agricultural Land reform projects. A spatially linked database has now been developed which includes information on the farms, beneficiary details, enterprises established or planned on the farms, as well as financial and training needs details. This database which is linked to the Elsenburg geographic information system (GIS), will provide timely, spatial and accurate managerial information, thereby contributing towards sound decision-making in the Western Cape.

Once again the Department of Agriculture has delivered fully on its promises thereby bettering the lives of both humans and animals. I have no doubt that the promised deliverables could only have been achieved through the sterling commitment of all officials of the Department of Agriculture. I am indeed very proud of the Department's contribution in this regard.

Enquiries: Jan Bosman
021 483 4700
083-7755-312

*

VIR ONMIDDELLIKE VRYSTELLING

VERKLARING DEUR COBUS DOWRY, MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, WES-KAAP

22 DESEMBER 2005

LANDBOU IN DIE WES-KAAP HET GELEWER OP DIE BELOFTES WAT GEMAAK IS AS DEEL VAN DIE "KRISMISBOX" VELDTOG VIR DIE WES-KAAP

Op 26 September 2005 het Premier Rasool meer as 100 leweringsbeloftes aangekondig as deel van die "Krisimisbox" veldtog vir die Wes-Kaap. Die Departement van Landbou het sekere verbintenisse gemaak tot die veldtog, bo en behalwe die departement se daaglikse aktiwiteite. Met drie dae voor Kersfees is ek verheug en trots op my Departement se pogings ter bereiking van die doelwitte wat 'n verskil sal maak in die lewens van gewone mense.

Hieronder volg 'n kort opsomming van die doelwitte wat bereik is:

Die Direkoraat Veeartsenydiens van die Departement Landbou het 'n veldtog begin in die Kaapse Vlakte ten einde 'n verbetering te bring in die gesondheid en welstand van troeteldiere en perde in die area.

Tot op datum is 297 perde voorsien van 'n mikroskyfie wat 'n bevolking van trekperde sal skep wat almal 'n mikroskyfie het om die probleem van diefstal van die perde hok te slaan, asook om 'n effektiewe rekord te hou van siektebeheer omdat so baie eienaars afhanklik is van die perde vir hul bestaan. In die proses is 259 perde ook ontworm.

Die risiko van 'n hondsdoelheid epidemie met gevare vir menslike gesondheid het die Departement genoodsaak om 'n veldtog te inisiëer om honde en katte te vaksineer. Tot op datum is 32 772 honde ingeënt en die doel is om 50 000 honde teen die einde van Maart 2006. Terselfdertyd was die doel om 20 000 katte en honde te ontworm om sodoende die risiko van die oordraging van soonotiese parasiete (van dier na mens) na die inwoners van die area te verminder. Tot sover is 32 772 honde ook ontworm.

Die ontwikkeling van onderbenutte water hulpbronne in die Doring Rivier, kan nuwe geleenthede skep vir landbou ontwikkelings. Hierdie deel van die provinsie geleë in die Weskus naby Klaver en Vredendal benodig dringend ontwikkeling, beleggings en werkskeppingsgeleenthede. Die water wat beskikbaar is vir ontwikkeling kan ongeveer 5300 ha besproei. Die Departement van Landbou het homself verbind tot die lewering van 'n konsep lewensvatbaarheid verslag van die Olifants/Doring Rivier Dam en Besproeiingsprojek vir opkomende boere voor Kersfees 2005. Hierdie verslag bevat 'n opsomming van al die studies rondom onder andere grond, water beskikbaarheid, dam posisies, ondergrondse water, ekologie, sosiale impak, ekonomie, biodiversiteit asook aanbevelings ten opsigte van verdere ontwikkelingsopsies van 'n dam. Die voor-lewensvatbaarheid ondersoek is afgehandel voor die teikendatum.

Die Phillippi mark inisiatief van die Stad Kaapstad en die Provinsiale regering skep enorme geleenthede. Die belangrikste hiervan is die skep van 'n mark vir grondhervorming begunstigdes en ander voorheen benadeelde boere om 'n inkomste te verkry van landbou produkte. Ter ondersteuning van die ontwikkeling van die Phillippi Stedelike Landbou Kern het die Departement van Landbou homself verbind tot 'n navorsings demonstrasieperseel vir groentegewasse. Dit sal onder andere die nodige onderbou verskaf vir opleiding en voorligting programme vir voedsel sekuriteit en produksie vir kommersiële markte. Die demonstrasieperseel sal as 'n mini Eksperimentele plaas aangewend word wat sal dien as 'n "opelug laboratorium" waar nuwe tegnologieë getoets en gedemonstreer kan word aan die nuwe kliënte van die departement. Hierdie projek sal die nuwe en opkomende boere geweldig tot voordeel strek en is nog 'n lewering van die "Krisimisbox" veldtog.

'n Ondersoek na die verhouding tussen verbruikers en landbou in die Wes-Kaap is ook afgehandel. Onder andere het die ondersoek 'n opname ingesluit wat gedoen is onder verbruikers in stedelike gebiede in die Wes-Kaap en sal onder andere die rol en persepsies met betrekking tot landbou, veranderinge in ekonomiese ontwikkeling en verstedeliking, uitlig.

Laastens het die Departement van Landbou die behoefte aan 'n databasis van goedgekeurde Wes-Kaap Landbou grondhervormingsprojekte geïdentifiseer. 'n Ruimtelike gekoppelde databasis is nou ontwikkel wat wat sal insluit inligting oor die plase, besonderhede van begunstigdes, ondernemings wat gevestig is of beplan word op die plase sowel as besonderhede van finansiële en opleidingsbehoefes. Hierdie databasis wat gekoppel is met die Elsenburg, Geografiese Inligting Stelsel (GIS) sal tydige en akkurate bestuursinligting voorsien en bydra tot weldeurdagte besluitneming in die Wes-Kaap.

Weer eens het die Departement van Landbou ten volle gelewer op sy beloftes en daardeur 'n bydrae gemaak tot die verbetering van lewens van beide mense en diere. Ek het geen twyfel dat die beloftes slegs nagekom kon word as gevolg van die uitsonderlike verbintenis van die amptenare van die Departement van Landbou tot die mense van die Wes-Kaap. Ek is daarom besonder trots op dit wat vermag is en die departement se bydrae in die verband.

Navrae: Jan Bosman

021 483 4700

083-7755-312