



Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY NORTH WEST PREMIER, PROF TEBOGO JOB MOKGORO, AT THE BAKGATLA BA MOSETLHA TREES FOR SCHOOL FEES HELD AT THE AGRICO HALL (TSHIMO YA KGOSI) IN MAKAPANSTAD ON 01 OCTOBER 2019

Motsamaisa tiro yo o tlotlegang

Kgosi Nchaupe wa Boraro (III) wa Bakgatla ba Mosetlha

MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and
Tourism, Mme Keneetswe Mosenogi

The Mayor of the Moretele Local Municipality, Cllr Andries Monageng

Bakgatla Ba Mosetlha Tribal Authority

Representatives of the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries

Representatives of Malan Seuns Food and Trees for Africa

Representatives of the Maru Ciberconnect NPC

School learners from the various schools in and around Makapanstad

Badiredi puso

Members of the media

Bakgatla Ba Mosetlha

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

Kgosi Nchaupe, Mokgatla wa Mosetlha; Kgabo!! re motlotlo ebile re tletse boitumelo jo bo seng kana ka sepe gore re be re le kwano mosong ono re tlile go thankgolola lenaane la go jalwa ga ditlhare; mme re dirisana le masepala wa selegae wa Moretele gammogo le tsamaiso ya Bogosi jwa Bakgatla ba Mosetlha.

Re lebogela gore tsamaiso ya Bogosi e bone go le maleba go nna le tirisano mmogo le rona re le puso ya bogareng go leka go aga le go tlhabolola tikologo gore e kgone go ungwela bana, ditlogolo le dikokomana tsa rona mo dingwageng tse di santse di ka tla.

Ladies and gentlemen, a recent report by the United Nations has indicated that sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most affected areas as a result of global warming but added that Southern Africa will not be spared of this climate change phenomenon.

The region is being forecasted to become drier, with an increasing drought frequency with a rising number of heat waves in Southern Africa towards the end of the 21st century.

This then becomes a wakeup call to civil society, private sector and government to work together to stem the spread and increasing effect of global warming as well as climate change.

It is therefore a very pleasing development that we are all gathered here today to jointly contribute towards the planting of trees in Makapanstad; which is a community that has been characterized by the following factors:

- An increased population that depends on agriculture and natural resources for survival

- An unsustainable exploitation of trees leading to insufficient tree cover around communities; particularly in the form of fruit, food, firewood and shade leaving soils predisposed to wind erosion and high temperatures
- A high demand for timber for fuel wood and building material that has led to cutting down of trees without replacing;
- And unemployment as well as poverty is growing at an alarming rate in the area.

Kgosi, it then becomes our responsibility that we tackle the deforestation has had hit this area head by working together to plant the much necessary trees in and around Makapanstad but also do the same in other areas of the North West Province to achieve the intended 100 000 trees a year target that we have set ourselves as government.

This would in turn help to build an environment where we create communities that are able to hold their own against climate change while being able to feed off these biological resources that are inclusive of trees and how they are able to feed, clothe families and pay for school fees for their children in the process.

Therefore, our ability to green our schools and community spaces with fruit trees and indigenous plants also add to sustained food security while directly or indirectly providing a resource for traditional medicines on which some of the community members depend on for their health, in addition to the consumption of fruits borne by the trees we are planting today.

Ke ka moo e le gone re kgona go ipela ka lenaane leno la Trees for School Fees (TSF) gore le tla tswela Bakgatla ba Mosetlha le baagi ba

North West mosola; ka gonne lenaane leno le na le bokgoni jwa go tlhola ditshono tsa ikonomi le go netefatsa gore baagi ba nna le dijo tseo di tlhokogalang gore ba nonofe ebile ba tshele sentle.

This is because the Trees for School Programme has the following as its main objectives;

- To propagate in large quantities indigenous plant species in the public spaces and close to households
- To create immensely massive job opportunities through reforestation of woodlands and indigenous forests in the area
- To improve the attractiveness of the natural landscapes and access to natural resources
- To improve the capacity of local community members, youth, teachers and learners to cultivate and propagate trees and vegetable seedlings
- Raise awareness on the benefits of greening with indigenous plants and of using proper harvesting methods with the aim of encouraging communities to plant more trees as a source of food, shelter and medicine
- And together with other relevant stakeholders, build local based nurseries as seed banks for indigenous plants seedlings compactable with the local environment condition.

As we move forward, we are going to be handing over plant seedlings from the nurseries to each school in the area so as to allow learner to take them to their respective homes for planting, watering and growing.

We hope to see the learners trading the trees to back their schools – once they are grown – who will be able to resell them to the nurseries as

well as local municipalities, government departments as well as any interested parties.

But over and above this, we are indeed confident that we will be reforesting the damaged spaces that have been deforested as a result of global warming and other related factors.

In addition, this collaborative effort that we are embarking on will also create a much better future and an environmentally better world for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren by instilling and inculcating a culture of taking care of the environment.

We are therefore tasked to take care of this precious resource – the environment – not only for our sake but for the future of all humanity.

Ke a leboga

ENDS