

AGRIBANK – AGRIFUTURA COCKTAIL FUNCTION

HANDING-OVER OF THE CERTIFICATES
TO EMERGING AND RESETTLED FARMERS

REMARKS BY

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Chief Executive Officer

SAFARI HOTEL - 6 OCTOBER 2009

- **Director of Ceremonies**
- **Hon. Cde Alfeus Naruseb - Minister of Lands and Resettlement**
- **Mr. Desmond Shikesho – Director of the Agribank Board of Directors**
- **Mr. Adolf De Klerk – Managing Director of Agrifutura**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests**
- **Fellow Farmers**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good evening,

I feel duty bound to be present at this very important occasion this evening and very delighted that the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement Comrade Naruseb agreed to grace this occasion as the keynote speaker and handing over certificates to the emerging and resettled farmers who completed the training course. This evening heralds a new era in that Agribank and Agrifutura for the first time have trained a large number of emerging and resettled farmers, 140 to be precise, in livestock management and farm financial management. This type of training is constantly required to transfer skills and knowledge of modern farming

to meet the daunting challenges of sustainable food production, wealth creation and value addition in the agricultural sector.

Agribank identified the need for training of the emerging and resettled farmers as one of the most important factor that can play a significant role in the success of the land reform program. Every piece of land must be utilized productively to enhance and increase the livestock and food production and ultimately increase agriculture's contribution to the national economy. In this regard, Agribank contracted Agrifutura to provide training in farm management in the identified regions of Khomas-Windhoek, Otjozondjupa-Otjiwarongo, Hardap-Mariental and Omaheke-Gobabis for this financial year. As we speak now training to more than 40 participants is taking place in Otjiwarongo. It is indeed encouraging to see such a large number of emerging and resettled farmers turn-out for these training courses and Agribank plan to support more training courses in the next financial year 2010. Farming is a dynamic business hence the importance of the training to meet the demand and challenges of the changing business environment. Farming is a business and requires skills and knowledge to be successfully productive and profitable farmers that will enable you to honor your obligations to the Bank so that money loaned out to you is repaid for further investment to the next farmer.

Director of Ceremony

Agriculture plays an important role in the lives of many Namibians. The challenge is to transform every piece of land owned into a productive one and create robust economies in every region of the country. The Land Reform Program aims to distribute 15 million hectares by 2020 to previously disadvantaged Namibians. To date, a total 5,200 ha of commercial land have been acquired under both

programs (National Resettlement Program and AALS). It is therefore of necessity for Agribank to team up with various service providers to transfer skills and knowledge to the emerging and resettled farmers in order to farm sustainably, profitably and ultimately contribute to the realization of an industrialized Namibian nation by 2030. Land is critical in the creation of the value chain and should therefore be utilized efficiently, appropriately and productively to become self-sufficient in food security as a nation.

Lastly, I would like to call upon all the participant farmers to put the knowledge and skills acquired to good use and practice at your respective farms and/or plots. Agribank embarked upon the “know your customer initiative” and intends to visit every client to determine their respective needs and assess their level of production. At Agribank, we continuously prepare today for a prosperous Namibia tomorrow.

Thank you!!!!!!

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