

The Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga indicated that, the municipality is prepared to work with farmers to expand the economic growth of Blouberg and that the farming expertise Sernick Group and its partners comes with will assist local emerging farmers.

Mayor Thamaga was delivering opening remarks during Farmers Day event held yesterday, June 17 at Nakedi Secondary School, De Vrede Village. The event was organized by De Vrede Farming Cooperative in partnership with Sernick Group.

" You are welcome to Blouberg, your presence here will help impart the necessary knowledge to the farmers. It's pleasing to see local farmers work hard to take care of their livestock. Farming is not a walk in the park nor is a get- rich-quick scheme, it needs passion, dedication and patience for one to succeed" said Mayor Thamaga.

De Vrede Farming Cooperative is made up of 134 local farmers who specializes in cattle farming. Sernick Group, a Kroonstad, Free State firm which has footprint in the North West specialises in Agriculture and Agricultural processing activities.

Petro Naude, Managing

Director at SerDev(part of Sernick Group) who specializes in farmer development indicated that they are looking to partner with farmers in Limpopo Province to assist improve quality of their cattle in order to get better prices in the market and assist in establishing markets for their livestock.

"I'm here to introduce Sernick to you, we are a firm from Kroonstad who did big work in farmer development. Now we are looking to partner with you in Limpopo, Blouberg. We've been farming for many years and we know what we are doing and we farm with Bonsmara. We have all the business skills to take from the farm, through to the abattoir unto your plate.

We are from SerDev, we are a partner of the Sernick Group. We would like to come and teach you to improve the quality of your cattle so that you get better prices for your cattle. We thank De Vrede Farming Cooperative for the initiative and inviting us here. We will work with our partners to see how we can improve your cattle farming and training".

Naude indicated that the firm has trained over 3000 people(accredited training) and have worked with more than 30 000 cattle in the Free State in 450 000 hectares of land.

Mayor Thamaga further indicated that, she is grateful the session was held during youth month to encourage young people to learn how to be self sustainable and build businesses in agriculture .

"Teachers, today you are going to get knowledge and pass it through to learners. I will be visiting schools of these learners to check how they are doing after this event. I want to see emerging farmers, I want you to be like Mr Phophi Raletjena and Mr Solly Ratjumana and many others like our guests who are here with us today from Kroonstad and other areas." It is our wish to see our municipality having an agricultural school." concluded the Mayor.

Farmers also received education on how to handle their livestock from experts in the farming fraternity;

FARMING WITH BONSMARA -
Bernard Burger (Bonsmara SA)

BIOSECURITY - Dr Faffa Malan(renowned Veterinarian)

THE BENEFIT OF SUPPLEMENTS - Patrick Sekwatlakwatla

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - Willem Klein (Elanco Animal Health)

COOPERATIVE AS BUSINESS - Kgabo Rammutla (Genex)

VIEWING AND DISCUSSION OF BONSMARA
(Soutspanberg Bonsmara).



