



Milk for the crocodile people

by Hanlie du Plessis

The Chief of the Moloti people, Kgosi Kgabo WA BORARO Moloti III, recently met with representatives of his community and the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) regarding the establishing of a milk farm to serve his region. The Moloti people are known as the people of the crocodile in the Limpopo Province.

The current shortage of milk has hit the Moloti people hard. No fresh milk was available at any of the local stores outside of Polokwane at the time of this report.

Chief Kgabo announced that he had made available some land to establish a dairy farm in the region and that he supports the idea of households caring for a milk cow or two on their plots to increase milk production in the area. Acts like this are much appreciated by the local communities.

The community's commitment is emphasised at one of the approved and successful projects in the Chiefs jurisdiction. Nineteen men and women committed themselves to the Rampiergierfontein Agricultural Project, not taking any money generated by the project, but ploughing it all back into their investment.

Frans Dibete, project manager said the people working on the farm committed themselves to do other work to put food on the table until such time that the goat milk and meat project is economically successful enough to draw on the financial resources.

The MPO have been involved with the training of the people for some time now, training them in caring for farm animals, productivity and financial management and acting as mentor of the project, overseeing successful practices.

The project started just more than 18 months ago giving work to more than 40 people of surrounding villages. With the intervention of the MPO training and developing programmes have been implemented, resulting in a sustainable interest from the crocodile people. **UM**