

CHABANE CHECKS ON RURAL PROGRESS

1 March 2013

The Minister for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the presidency, Collins Chabane, will lead a government delegation on a follow up visit to Diyatalawa and Makgolokoeng in Qwaqwa in the eastern Free State this morning.

The villages are located in Maluti-a-Phofung local municipality in the Thabo Mofutsanyane district. They are in a part of the province that has the largest rural population compared to other parts of the province.

The visit follows a monitoring and evaluation visit by President Jacob Zuma to assess the efficacy of rural development programmes in that area in 2011. The purpose of the visit is to monitor and assess progress in the implementation of the rural development interventions in Diyatalawa and Makgolokoeng.

Chabane will be accompanied by the Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti, Free State Premier Ace Magashule, members of the Free State executive council and the mayor of Maluti-a-Phufong, Sarah Moleleki.

Chabane and his delegation will be briefed on progress made in the implementation of identified projects by the task team. During his visit the president expressed satisfaction with improvements in rural development programmes in the two villages .

"I'm impressed by the work done to improve the lives of the residents in this area although a lot must still be done," the president had said.

In Diyatalawa village government bought a farm and settled about 50 families there. Fifty housing units with VIP toilets had also been built and solar panels were installed to provide energy to the houses.

In addition to building houses, a school, a new crèche and a multipurpose sports facility was also built. When the cattle died the government bought more cattle (about 274 at first and another 200 later) to assist the community to continue with cattle farming and milk production.

Each household has a bigger yard which they are encouraged to turn into a garden.

Most families have gardens and plant in them in order to avoid having to buy food that each family can produce on its own.

In Makgolokoeng, near Harrismith, there was a 15000 strong community that was planned as two sections – Tsele and Mahabeng.

As part of its programme to develop the village, the government built a new crèche, multipurpose sports facility, 100 RDP houses and a temporary health clinic.

A mobile computer centre was given to the community and is equipped with 24 computers.

In addition, a community hall is under construction, VIP toilets are being built and boreholes are under construction to provide water to the community.

There are also agricultural and farming projects in the village. These projects include 200ha of soya beans, planting of maize, three hydroponic tunnels (a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions without soil) and two vegetable tunnels.

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]