National Red Meat Development Programme

3rd Beef Cattle Farming Indaba Report

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For the past three years, the Beef Cattle Indaba has been organised by the National Agricultural Marketing Council through the programme called the National Red Meat Development Program (NRMDP). The first Indaba was held at Fort Cox College King Williams Town in 2011, the second in 2012 at Mount Frere Elugangeni Village, and the final Indaba held in 2013 at Ngcobo in Ncorha Flats Queenstown. The BFC as customary known in the Eastern Cape Province, involves a tour of the custom feeding programme, explains the operations of the programme (from cattle intake to sales) and the technical assistance granted by the NAMC and government departments.

Since its inception, the Beef Cattle Farming Indaba has attracted leading government personalities and in 2011, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Lulu Johnson was the first honoured guest to deliver a keynote address. The 2012 BFC Indaba also served as a catalyst to rear strong government and local authority involvement in the programme. For the first time, the Indaba attracted the various Eastern Cape Province provincial kingdoms and chiefdoms. This paved way for the Honourable Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Gugile Nkwinti to deliver a keynote address in 2013.

Such is the importance of the BFC that in 2012, a decision was taken moving forward, to host an evening cocktail function for every Indaba. This was done to raise business awareness of the viability of the NRMDP and promote its sustenance to local meat retailers and government. In its first year (2012), the guest speaker was the NAMC CEO Mr. Ronald Ramabulana, while in 2013 a line-up of speakers included the Executive Mayor of Lukhanji Local Municipality, the Executive Mayor of Chris Hani District Municipality, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, and the Senior Manager of the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian reform. It needs to be noted that the NRMDP Manager was the guest speaker for the event.

Through our stakeholder engagements, testament can be given that the NRMDP especially its outreach leg (Beef Cattle Farming Indaba), is one of the yearly flagship programmes of the NAMC that has direct effect on marketing of livestock from subsistence farmers. It has received assistance from a number of government departments and is earmarked to be one of the programmes that will have an enormous potential. This is the second report presented by the Agricultural Trusts Division on the annual Beef Cattle Farming Indaba.
The evening programme was hosted and delivered by the Chris Hani Municipality in partnership with the NAMC. Programme Director for the day was NAMC Agricultural Trusts Senior Manager Mr Xalisa who, in his opening address touched on the history, challenges and the success of the NRMDP. Mr. Xalisa reminded guests that the cocktail function as in the previous year was hosted with the aim of interacting and integrating business, civil society formations and government people.

Unlike the first cocktail function that delved into seeking partnership with business, government and civil society, the second cocktail function was based on “from village to folk: it this a reality or pipe dream?” This theme according to Xalisa departed hugely from the first cocktail theme which posed “Can civil society and business be spectators in a game they are supposed to play?” Thus, the second cocktail function was more specific in venturing on how best can the programme market communal cattle while the first was more interested in asserting how NRMDP can contribute to rural development. It was pleasing according to the programme director that the first occasion created a serious interest from government, business and civil society. Undoubtedly, with the spectre of participation shown, the programme was ripe to be launched nationally.

_The cocktail function took the following sequence of direction as protocol required;_

_“Mr Xalisa giving an opening address at the cocktail.”_
In welcoming all guests to Lukhanji Local Municipality, Councillor Mncekeledi Peter (Acting Executive Mayor of Lukhanji Local Municipality) outlined the strategic importance of the Lukhanji Local Municipality within the Chris Hani District Municipality. He argued that Lukhanji was the economic hub of the Chris Hani District Municipality and provided tangible reasons. He, however, stopped short of saying that Lukhanji Local Municipality was one of the leading Provincial Hubs and the gateway to and out of the Eastern Cape Province (to all other Provinces of South Africa, except KwaZulu-Natal). The geographic location of Lukhanji Local Municipality as an economic hub of the district is one of nature’s great wonders. Cllr Peter noted that the municipality was located at the centre of the region and further stressed that it was in the centre of economic activity.

According to Cllr Peter the role of agriculture in Lukhanji Local Municipality is significantly recognised in the area. Much appreciation was owed to the role of the custom feeding programme in developing local beef cattle farmers, especially those that are directly affected by the changing, unreliable climatic conditions and severe droughts. More interestingly, the Indaba proved that farming and business were not delusional because of the central role they played in fulfilling people’s needs. This Indaba had an element according to Cllr Peter of encouraging the spirit of self-help (meaning vuka uzimele in Xhosa) and striving to make people economically independent. Everyone who had “cattle in the area and is willing to join this tremendous programme is welcome to attend, with the hope that the Indaba will achieve its intended goals and objectives in the area” he said.
1.3 Overview of the Christ Hani District Municipality Rural Development approach
Executive Mayor Cllr M Koyo

The Executive Mayor of Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM), Councillor Koyo, reiterated the words of Councillor Peter in ensuring that delegates felt welcomed at the Chris Hani District Municipality. He opened his speech by thanking the NAMC for its partnership and the commitment it has shown in the development of farmers, especially in the rural areas of CHDM. The CHDM is advancing the development agenda of the country in its eight Local Municipalities, with the main focus on food security, meaning that all the developmental plans of the Local Municipalities prioritise food security. Councillor Koyo indicated that Social Grants are the primary source of income within CHDM. He noted that statistics show that about 700 000 people within the District Municipality are predominantly rural (with agriculture being the backbone of their economies), making the Custom Feeding Programme extremely relevant for the District.

The Executive Mayor pointed out that the Christ Hani District Municipality was predominantly rural in its nature and hence the reason the municipality always advanced programmes that were more user-friendly to the rural people. Typical of a rural municipality, the unfortunate realities associated with rural spaces were prevalent in Chris Hani. Currently, there was high unemployment and poverty in the area, giving an indication of the poor food security picture of the municipality. The municipality’s residents depended on social grants, which were a concern to the municipality, considering that some of the people hold their precious assets in the form of livestock that are killed by hunger in winter months.

Under the current CHDM leadership, the municipality has been focusing on three pillars of development to ensure agrarian reform; rural development, food security and land reform. The Executive Mayor noted with optimism that three of the eight local municipalities (Intsika Yethu, Sakhisizwe and Nkwankca) have high rainfall, with livestock and crop production being the dominant activities.

**Intsika Yethu Local Municipality** enjoys established irrigation infrastructure (Bilatye, Qamata and Ncorha) and in the province, it is the only local municipality with substantial irrigation schemes with large dams. Intsika Yethu Local Municipality is one of the local municipalities with two of the custom feeding programmes (Ncorha Flats and Gxwalubomvu). The Gxwalubomvu custom feeding programme was devised for rural farmers after the realisation that communal farmers have large numbers of livestock, which numbers might be higher than the human population of the Eastern Cape Province. However, one major concern relates to the quality of the meat from these animals and it is in this regard that the Executive Mayor encouraged farmers to make the best use of the custom feeding programme in their area.

**In Sakhisizwe Local Municipality**, the land reform programme has seen a 40 % land transfer rate, which represents a success, as it is much higher than the national target. Furthermore, the development of the Ikhephu commercial feedlot was currently initiated. The municipality also focused on livestock as one of anchor projects.

**Nxubayethemba Local Municipality** encompasses activities such as biofuel and sugar beet production. This means that there will be
much industrial activity in this local municipality as a result of the sugar beet plantation.

**Emalahleni Local Municipality** is a dry area characterised by sorghum production, which is very adaptable to the climatic conditions of this area. In addition, coal mining is developing. The expansion of the bulk terminal at East London Harbour and the refurbishment of the railway line linking Emalahleni to East London is a result of coal exploitation.

**Lukhanji Local Municipality**, as the economic hub of the district, is better suited to manufacturing of products suitable for agro-processing zones. The Executive Mayor also reminded the leadership of Lukhanji Local Municipality that their collaboration was paramount in getting the agro-processing zones in place, failing which the authorities will establish them elsewhere where there is collaboration.

**Nkwankca Local Municipality** experiences much wind and a wind farming project of more than 1 billion rand is planned for the area, which represents about 50% of the development in the area.

The Western Part of CHDM is very dry and Karoo wool production is predominant, with Karoo beef and mutton also being produced in this area.

In his closing remarks, the Executive Mayor emphasised that the economy of CHDM could only be complete when considerations of agriculture were taken into account. The commonality among these municipalities evolved around agricultural activities, whether crop or livestock production. It is against this background that the CHDM was looking forward to developing the custom feeding programme in all of its local municipalities.

1.4 Department of Rural Development and Land Reform: Dr M Swartz (DDG of REID)

Dr Swartz outlined the importance of livestock, especially cattle, to the livelihood of African people in an uplifting manner, tone and embrace. He argued, profoundly, that cattle were not only animals with which a household might possess, but connote a cultural significance. His speech had markings of agrarian reform particularly based on a concerted effort to improve rural areas in South Africa. This idea fell in the DRDLR blueprint of agrarian reform strategy and which was noticeably available for public scrutiny.

This strategy defines agrarian reform/transformation as “a rapid and fundamental change”. It gives an indication of the urgency of the department in dealing with this matter. Dr Swartz implored delegates to ask why communal farmers were struggling to make livestock a business. **Was it because they are bad animal handlers or because they did not understand livestock marketing?** His reply was that in an African household, cattle were worth more than their economic value. He further queried why communal farmers are failing to produce beef.

Dr Swartz questions were prompted by those academic studies and economic views on study of cattle but neglected the cultural and spiritual relationships that existed between communal farmers and their cattle. Even one of the early colonialists acknowledged that harm could be brought to black people by seizing their cattle.
resources, with the thinking that this would lead to economic deprivation among them. In all this, the spiritual and cultural sentiment attached to the cattle was overlooked. Dr Swartz also quoted from the bible: "for every animal of the forest are mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills". By such a quote Dr Swartz was merely highlighting the importance of livestock as a resource for social, economic and environmental aspects.

In summing up government serious intent to agrarian reform, he said the agrarian strategy was aimed at relationships among people with their livestock and cropping. Its implementation is made possible through partnerships with the various stakeholders, such as:

- Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, which aims to assist the development of rural economy.
- NAMC-custom feeding programme, which aims to support rural farmers through beef commercialisation.
- ARC-Imileqwa (indigenous chicken) project, which has identified 32 different species.
- Land care-programme, which involves design resource management (land restoration).

These partnerships were aimed at restoring the dignity of the people by advancing the agrarian strategy. The programme is already in place and some of the communities in the province have achieved the set target.

1.5 Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform livestock perspective: Mr M Macanda (ECDRDAR)

Mr Macanda opened his presentation by saying that his talk would be short because amagqala – experienced people like Dr Swartz – who had already covered the most important issues around livestock. The history of cattle and black people is well documented, as was presented by Dr Swartz. He pointed out that it is much easier for the department to deal with crop production projects than the livestock because farmers share one common resource; grazing land.

The speaker went further to mention the difficulty of finding one single answer for livestock improvement. According to the ECDRDAR thou, it was making a commitment to supporting and developing communal farmers in both livestock and crop production. The province as it were is currently faced with numerous challenges: no contribution of livestock, land tenure, lack of training, lack of infrastructure and institutional arrangements. Of importance is that the livestock development programmes should run in a sustainable manner, and not degrading to the environment. This was aimed at the commercialisation of communal farmers and at making them independent from donor and government funds in the long term, and at enabling them to sell their animals throughout the entire beef value chain components (such as feedlots, abattoirs, butcheries and retailers).

In conclusion Mr. Macanda said a question existed, was it realistic to commercialise the communal system based on the people who are living there in ezilalini (villages)? Seeing that much of the livestock in the Eastern Cape gives little or no contribution to the country’s GDP, it is imperative to focus on livestock improvement so as to unlock new market opportunities and combat unemployment. The custom feeding programme can play a part in helping communal farmers to become aware of the formalities and processes of the entire beef production, markets and all the value chain components. The ECDRDLR has committed to support the custom feeding programmes with the provision of feed.
1.6 From village to fork: is this a reality or dream: Dr X Ngetu

Dr. Ngetu is currently the Programme Manager for the NRMDP and explained the complex nature of livestock farming. Based on his experiences, the ownership of livestock has had a huge impact on the owner and the community, and can visibly determine the kind of intervention that is required in a particular community. Bad conditions of livestock can bring disrepute to the owner and the entire community, because, seeing one animal in a bad condition, the buyers might easily say “the livestock in that community is bad”. Accordingly, livestock condition tends to portray the image of the community.

The concept of communal livestock is a complex issue and has challenges, such as winter, drought, stock theft and others, and on average each village loses approximately more than two hundred thousand rand on livestock, due to the abovementioned causes. If government was to count how many villages there are in the Eastern Cape Province, it will be found that are too many to mention, so one can clearly see the levels of losses that these farmers are facing. He also mentioned one of his favourite quotes, which is a quote from the Gorilla who is sleeping: his eyes are closed and he is talking to himself – “He says when I thought I knew all the answers of life they changed the question”.

“NRMDP works with communal farmers to increase the income earned from rainfed cattle, through greater and more beneficial participation in the red meat market.”

As the economy grows, people turn to a diet that contains meat. The red meat consumption trends among all races show that the black middle class have the highest consumption rate. This trend presents a new market opportunity, hence the communal farmers need to be developed and improve their livestock to meet the requirements of the new markets. This shows that as we continue to farm, we need to change and not to remain fixed on one livestock practice forever, because our environment is changing and consumer tastes and preferences are changing over time. Dr. Ngetu further alluded that as we continue producing livestock, there are strategies that were required to move from the farm to the fork. These included animal health, feeding, breeding, proper identification and others.

1.7 Vote of thanks: The Speaker of Chris Hani District Municipality Councillor Xhoseni

In proposing the vote of thanks, the District Municipal Speaker noted with appreciation and thanked all present. In order not to omit any single person, the Speaker gave thanks to all people and said few words regarding the custom feeding programme. The Speaker encouraged the standpoint that unity among the stakeholders should bring much success to the custom feeding program as a tool for improving livestock. His departing message was “Let’s go forward with livestock production and improvement”.
Like in previous years, it was important for dignitaries to receive firsthand account of how the NRMDP operated before leading to the main programme. The briefing was held at Gxwalubomvu and Ncorha Custom Feeding where the Minister of Rural Development and Land Affairs received views from government, business and community on the social impact the programme was having on the community. This is an account of the briefing that transpired on 21 November 2013.

2.1 Overview of the programme – Dr X Ngetu

Dr Ngetu gave an overview of the both the custom feeding programme at Gxwalibomvu and the custom feeding programme at Ncorha, which are both located in the CHDM in the Eastern Cape. He noted that NAMC, DRDAR, and ECDRDAR have come together to ensure that the infrastructure development of both programmes was possible and sustainable.

Phase 2.1.1: Site visit Gxwalubomvu Custom Feeding: NAMC & Intsika Yethu Delegation

Facilities
The Gxwalubomvu custom feeding facility is a new structure that was recently built and is currently not yet in operation because water facilities have not been installed. It is the biggest custom feeding programme in the province, with relatively high standards among the four custom feeding programmes.

Intake
The intake of the custom feeding facility is estimated to be about 300 animals, based on animal lengths of 1 m to 1.5 m. The scheme plans to sell its animals in the abattoirs, auctions and the communal areas of CHDM and other nearer areas in the province. It is important to note that the existence of the custom feeding programme was cast to support communities to access the formal market. Furthermore, the feedlot was built because of the large number of cattle in Intsika Yethu and to foster economic development in the rural communities of CHDM. Dr Ngetu and with the assistance of Mr. Makanda are responsible for the selection of the animals from farmers.

Phase 2.1.2: Site Visit Ncorha custom feeding programme: Intsika Yethu Farmers

Facilities
Facilities included feeding troughs for hay and concentrates, and water troughs. Feed is bought in East London (171 km) and Kokstad (294 Km), which is long distance from Ncorha. However, the transportation of feed is expensive for the custom feeding programme because of the long distance between Ncorha and East London and Kokstad.

Intake
The intake of the custom feeding scheme is 300 animals. Animals are sold in the communal area that surrounds Intsika Yethu. The important markets for the scheme are dependent on the formal market. Most of the animals are sold during the December and Easter holidays which inadvertently increases the high demands for the intake of animals. Currently, the animals in the custom feeding scheme have already been sold. The custom feedlots have created 2 jobs for headmen.

Dr Ngetu gave an undertaking of how much the animals cost the custom feeding programme. He mentioned that the animals are fed two times a day: 8 bags of complete ruminant feed are used and each bag costs R182.
NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR BOTH CUSTOM FEEDING PROGRAMMES

- The Ncorha custom feeding scheme is to be expanded, and it is expected to build three camps that will take about 80 animals each in each pen.
- Participants are planning to sell their animals to the nearest abattoirs.

After the tour of both Custom Feeding Programmes, the official programme for the day resumed at Ncorha where the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform was the main speaker and honoured guest. The proceedings were facilitated by Dr. Ngetu and the following was the order of the event.

2.2 Opening & Welcome: Cllr MC Koyo (Executive Mayor CHDM)

Executive Mayor for the CHDM gave a moving account of the necessity to establish Custom Feeding Programmes in the municipality. According to his address, there are approximately 10 villages that depend on livestock production in Intsika Yethu Local Municipality. Farmers in these villages suffered many losses due to diseases and drought. The most concerning factor was that many livestock died on their own, without making it to the market. The CHDM participated in the National Red Meat Development Programme to thus improve livestock condition for better market purposes.

The first custom feeding scheme in the district municipality was at Ncorha, the second one was in Gxwalubomvu at Cofimvaba, and others will be completed by 2014. The Mayor urged farmers not to fight for positions but to work together in unity so as to ensure harmonious rural development. The development can be advanced if livestock resources were improved.

2.3 NAMC Perspective of NRMDP: Dr L Magingxa (Council Member of NAMC)

Dr Magingxa indicated that in the beginning, the custom feeding programme was for the Eastern Cape Province, but this has progressed greatly because of the commitment of stakeholders. This is now a national programme which was why farmers from KwaZulu-Natal were invited to witness the reality of this emerging programme. Development was by its nature something done by people in partnership with others, which is why the partnership between these different stakeholders has brought about the successful outcome of these custom feeding programmes. This red meat project is in line with what the government, through its objectives, is trying to achieve in terms of rural enterprises development.

In summation, Dr. Magingxa thanked all stakeholders and partners involved in advancing the custom feeding programme. Furthermore, the commitment of various stakeholders was encouraged as there was still a lot of work that needed to be done, as far as livestock improvement is concerned. He encouraged farmers to uphold and take ownership of the custom feeding programme.
2.4 Messages of support from stakeholders

2.4.1 Red Meat Industry: Dr P Prinsloo

Addressing the Minister, Dr Prinsloo noted, for livestock production improvement, there must be more expenditure on transformation, livestock combating, stock theft. If a cow does not give birth annually, it should be culled or be taken to the feedlot for fattening and it must be sold – this is what commercial livestock farming is all about; small-scale techniques must be taken into consideration.

Livestock husbandry and crop cultivation joins farmers together, regardless of their race. The EC red meat sector acknowledges that the value chain system for communal livestock needs to be developed and that livestock improvement is one tool to ensure that. As a result, the red meat sector has applied for an increase of the statutory levy for the purpose of taking the transformation of communal farmers to another level, but especially to assist the farmers in the value chain, and especially the producers. However, as we effect these changes, we need to guard against provoking conflict, notwithstanding our different pasts. There is a collective strategy that can help us, which Dr Prinsloo proposed as including:

- Emerging, Communal, Commercial Farmers and Organised business;
- Multi partnership with government.

According to Dr. Prinsloo these ideals can help us go forward with livestock improvement, without continuing criticism of policy makers. The strategies can help us break through many barriers that are hindering beef production, especially in the communal livestock sector. Commercialisation is possible in communal farmers through the understanding of their inspiration, motivation, their social view, interaction among our societies, and understanding the need for change and the importance of market-oriented livestock products.

2.4.2 Provincial Support to Rural Livestock farming: Mr Bese

ECDRDL was committed to giving its undivided attention to support Thembuland in its effort for livestock improvement. This support was aimed at uplifting the farmers and encouraging economic growth in the area. The statistical forecasts state that in 2050 it will be difficult to feed the world’s population. As we tread on this road towards 2050, it was important
to take agriculture seriously, indeed it was important to put more focus on livestock improvement programmes to meet the needs of the current generation, without compromising the needs of the future.

Since livestock was a priority in the area, this was therefore a convenient time to focus on livestock improvement. The Eastern Cape Province is a leading producer of livestock, but little to none of that livestock makes it to the markets. It was time for us to take livestock as our gold standard which will support future generations. The Provincial Government has pledged to give funds to develop production infrastructure, such as abattoirs in the Chris Hani District Municipality in 2014.

2.4.3 EC House of Traditional Leaders: Nkosi N Matanzima

Supporting the custom feeding programme initiative can give birth to a huge impact to the lives of many people, especially those living in poverty. This work will also improve the lives of those who aim to be independent. This is good work that is aimed at rectifying the desolation that was brought by Nongqawuse. Therefore, the government must continue to instil a mindset that our people should desist from just being employed but aiming to create employment. The speaker noted that inasmuch as the government must support its citizens, his appeal was that farmers must be independent of government support. It is this dependency syndrome that has killed many people in our nation. Nkosi Matanzima also argued strongly that the success of people was in their own hands.

It was imperative that there should be a clear pathway for doing things to avoid dependency on government grants. One of the challenges in rural development was the re-shuffling and deployment of cadres that have no skill: some of them, when they came to office, neglected and destroyed the foundations that already existed by implementing new plans without considering the existing ones. The custom feeding programme initiative will be more successful, provided that bylaws prohibit veldt burning, destruction of fencing infrastructure, etc. He said that we must come to a point where a person should receive a jail sentence for breaking a fence or burning the veldt. Therefore, the aforementioned bylaws were needed and to be considered top priority of our government.
In closing, Nkosi Matanzima made an earnest request for municipal bylaws to be passed that will entrench the system of responsible citizenship, rather than the promulgation of laws that do not add value.

2.5 Keynote address by the Honourable Mr G Nkwinti (Minister of DRDLR)

The Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Minister Gugile Nkwinti, took to the stage and started singing a song that urged and resonated the rebirth of the things that used to sustain livelihood on the motherland, the Continent of Africa. He acknowledged that the honesty and courage of Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima but reminded him of the visit he once made to the late King Xolilizwe Sigcau. In narrating the story of the visit to the King, the Minister highlighted a statement that the King made to the effect that whatever they were bringing as development to the rural people it should not end up making people lazy.

The custom feeding programme is aimed at changing people’s views about livestock and therefore farmers must take full ownership of, and commitment to the programme. The livestock and the land must contribute to the national economy; people must move out of the mindset that makes them think that the only solution is to be an employee of someone. The proper improvement of livestock and better utilisation of land must fulfil the aim of the ruling government, which is “better life for all”. He said that we need to see people crying for joy because of good things that have happened to them as a result of livestock improvement.

The National Development Plan makes provision for the reformation of land reform. Therefore, we need mayors, councillors, chiefs, farmers and other stakeholders to advance the work towards developing land reform councillors. These land reform councillors could be helpful to drive the formulation of the essential bylaws, such as prohibiting veldt burning and damaging of fence infrastructure, which are essential components in the livestock improvement programmes. People must use their rights, but above these rights, there is a responsibility to ensure that our nation is stable.
2.6 Vote of thanks by Cllr K Vimbayo (Intsika Yethu Executive Mayor)

The Honourable Mayor of Intsika Yethu, Councillor Vimbayo, thanked all the delegates who spent their time listening to the speeches and the music. She argued that the measurement of the success of the 3rd Beef Cattle Farming Indaba will be the number of people in attendance. She thanked the traditional authorities, led by Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima, for their contribution towards community development in the municipality. She also thanked the Minister for the time and valuable inputs and commitments made in support of rural development. The Mayor further thanked the NAMC and Dr Ngetu’s endless contribution to the custom feeding programme and thanked sponsors for infrastructure development in Intsika Yethu Municipality.

2.7 Conclusion

Judging from the 2013 Beef Cattle Farming Indaba, it was crystal clear that the launch of the NRMDP nationwide will have a desired impact. The dedication shown by the Eastern Cape Province in sustaining the programme speaks volumes of the commitment to ensure rural development and connecting livestock communal farmers to formal markets.

Fundamentally, praise for the resuscitation of the programme in the Eastern Cape must go to the Chris Hani Municipality and its fervent commitment to continue supporting the NRMDP. The CHDM followed on its 2012 promise at the 2nd Beef Cattle Farming Indaba and established one custom feeding programme in 2013. The CHDM is planning to build two more custom feeding programmes in the 2014. Noteworthy to mention is that construction of custom feeding has begun in KZN and it is hoped that the 2014 Beef Indaba will be hosted outside the Eastern Cape Province.

In conclusion, the NAMC would like to formalise its appreciation to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform for steering the programme and carrying it nationally. By and large, the success of the 2013 Indaba charted a way forward and reliably asserted the longevity of the programme.
NOTES: