

Project construction on KZN NRMDP well on track

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Expansion of the National Red Meat Development Programme (NRMDP) into other provinces is firmly on track. Once a bastion of the Eastern Cape rural folk, it was in the launch of 2013 catapulted into other provinces as a means to support livestock communal farmers nationally. The first to receive such honor was the Kwa-Zulu Natal province with the programme to be based in Ladysmith, Emhlumayo. So far, the project construction has reached 90% completion rate with administration the only remaining component.



One of the recent feedlots built in Eastern Cape as part of the NRMDP expansion. The KZN feedlots have been completed see page 2.

The NRMDP has existed for more than 3 years with operations firmly located in the Eastern Cape only. Expansion into other provinces proved to be a challenging force and the ambition had to be halted due to lack of funds. It was in 2012, that the **expansion idea** received support from the DRDLR (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform: which set aside R200 million over 5 years as part of its Rural Development strategy). By 2013 two Custom Feeding Programmes were built in Eastern Cape with KZN following thereafter. The Emhlumayo project construction dates back to 2012, when the Chief of the Sithole Tribal Authority upon visiting the Eastern Cape was impressed by NRMDP approach to livestock farming. Subsequently, this interest translated into a formal motivational letter written to the NAMC by the Tribal authority requesting the same model to be developed and adapted for livestock farmers in that area.

Aside from the progress and resourceful impact (job creation and market access opportunities) the NRMDP has made in the Eastern Cape, the NAMC has taken measures to ensure the roll-out of the programme is undertaken nationally (a guiding business plan was developed). Already, advances in other provinces have been made and technical inspections conducted with 3 NRMDP expected to be established this year. The Emhlumayo NRMDP is unique because of its feedlots and auction pens proximity reducing transportation costs in ferrying animals to auctions days, thus benefitting livestock farmers even more. The KZN NRMDP was built on a 60x 60 m equivalent to 3600 square meters with an intake of plus minus 360 animals (cattle). Umntwana Bhekathule Sithole of the Sithole Tribal Authority highlighted the euphoria that has captured the community since the beginning of construction “Hopes are high, skills have been developed but most importantly we hope the NRMDP will stimulate entrepreneurship which is what is genuinely lacking in this area” he said.

NATIONAL RED MEAT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRMDP works with emerging and communal farmers to increase the income earned by farmers from raising cattle, through greater and more beneficial participation in formal red meat markets. The NRMDP focuses primarily on connecting farmers to formal markets and systemizing the informal markets. *The program has three main thrusts: a) a programme to enable farmers to understand the structure, operation and requirements of formal red meat markets, b) initiatives to develop marketing channels that will increase their participation in formal red meat markets and c) training and practical assistance to align the age, health and breeding of animals more closely to market demand.*



KZN NRMDP

Top Left: Auction Pen. This is where Siyabamphili Farmers Association will invite local butcheries, meat processors, businessmen, community for auction days.

Top Right: Area has scarce water because of its arid land. Water tanks were incorporated in the planning. On average one Cattle drinks 60 litres of water per day. Water is pumped from a perennial stream which is about 400m from the pens. Custom Feeding Program will begin taking the first 100 animals by the mid June

Bottom Right: Since the start of the construction, close 22 jobs were created. 7 women were employed and the rest of the number was divided among the youth and men. Once completed the facility will have 3 permanent herdsmen with the duty to maintain the structure and care for the animals. 1 Field Officer will be employed as a field worker to administer the facility.



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