

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HON TB MOTSHEGARE

2011.04.21

Hon Speaker and all protocol observed.

Let me thank you for giving me these few minutes to place my concern before you. What is the Department doing in order to help the women in the rural areas, so that they can help themselves to eradicate poverty? Women are the bread winners, because they are always at home looking after the family.

The UCDP encourages the Department to help women at all times, especially those in rural areas. Farming is the most important in rural areas where there are no jobs.

The incorporation of livestock enterprise has a stabilizing effect on crop farming. Marginal lands are used more profitably. The animal factor usually ensures a better cash flow.

Advantages of incorporating sheep rather than other animals are:

- **Turnover is faster and the cash flow is better with sheep than with cattle.**
- **Cash outlay for creating facilities for sheep is smaller than for cattle**
- **Sheep Farming is not as management intensive as a dairy enterprise.**

The Management Skills

The owner and his /her subordinates must have the necessary knowledge of sheep management. The Department must give this knowledge to the people in rural areas especially to women, as they will be able to manage their small stock.

The Health status of animals is to a large extent a function of the adaptability of animal, but due to changes in environmental condition and an increase in host/ carriers of disease conditions, health control is primarily a function of management.

The United Christian Democratic Party therefore plead that the Department make it a point to train women so that they can be able to manage their small stock and have something to put on the table.

The Black man's Bank is his cattle; Women also can depend on their sheep, goats, chickens and pigs for their income.

Medication with regard to the farmers curing their livestock is a great concern. Does the Department help farmers with medication or how do the farmers obtain or access such services?

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Hon Speaker, the gravest poverty in South Africa is found in the rural areas. People in South Africa as elsewhere, are much poorer in rural areas than in the Cities.

Hon Speaker

- 1. NGUNI CATTLE: Does Nguni cattle project still exist? How many benefited from this project?**
- 2. Why is the Taung College under Potchefstroom College? Why can't it be independent?**

The Department must consult with Dikgosi at all times, in order to have a good relationship. There is a problem of water for cattle. Why don't you maintain these Boreholes so as to have enough water for the cattle?

Farmers are the most important people in the community for they feed us with different food, e.g. vegetables, mealies etc.

We plead with the Department to help farmers during dry seasons. They should be helped free, because all their monies were spent during ploughing time. I would like to thank Ratlou Municipality for the good work they have done, by holding a workshop for councilors so that they can have knowledge of Agriculture.

On behalf of the UCDP I hereby support the Budget of the Department of Agriculture.

Hon Speaker, I thank you