

Media Release

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!Aimab Superfarm inaugurated

Mariental, 27 August 2009

The !Aimab Superfarm was officially inaugurated by President Hifikepunye Pohamba at Mariental on Friday, 21 August 2009.

The world-class dairy farm, fully equipped with a state-of-the-art cow house design adapted from Israel and the first manure scraper deployed in southern Africa, promises to produce high quality milk for the Namibian market and beyond. Ohlthaver & List through Namibia Dairies has invested N\$80 million into phase one of the Superfarm project.

In his keynote address, President Pohamba said the venture illustrates the success that can be achieved through smart partnerships between Government and the private sector. "When the Ohlthaver & List Group of Companies identified the opportunity for milk production, they approached Government which in turn made land available by way of a long-term lease. In addition, the Development Bank of Namibia provided financing in order to make the venture a reality. The completion of this project is a welcome contribution to our ongoing efforts to realize the goal to become self-sufficient in this and other areas," he said.

The investment firmly establishes 90 to 120 direct jobs in the Mariental region and helps to secure more than 600 jobs within Namibia Dairies as a whole. The dairy farm which is currently in its second phase accommodates a herd of 1 400 cows in milk and produces more than 30 000 litres of milk a day. At full capacity the !Aimab Superfarm will house 2 000 cows in milk and a total herd of about 4 500 to 4 800 cattle. The deciding factors in choosing Mariental as the most suitable site for the farm included the abundant supply of water from the Hardap Dam and the availability of fodder produced at the Hardap Irrigation Scheme.

The Managing Director of Namibia Dairies, Hubertus Hamm, said O&L supports Government's strategy to stimulate economic activity in the South and that Superfarm does not only create direct job opportunities in the region, but also has a huge impact on the demand for raw materials and services, which are provided by the local community.

Asked what the opening of the Superfarm meant for the town of Mariental in terms of development, Hardap Governor Katrina Hanse-Himarwa said: “ The operation will have immense positive spin-offs for the individuals of Mariental as it will provide employment and contribute to economic advancement. The fact that it is a world-class venture will help put not only the Hardap Region on the map but the country as a whole.”

Ends.

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