

## THE LAUNCH OF BASADI TEMONG INITIATIVE AT NAKEDI POULTRY FARM

Mokopane: MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Nakedi Kekana, alongside Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, His Worship Ngoako Tauetsoala and the representative of Waterberg District Municipality, Dipuo Moatshe, visited Nakedi Poultry Farm in Mapela to enjoy the promise of regional farming and officially launch the Basadi Temong initiative for the empowerment of women in farming. The tour indicated the significance of poultry farming in development at the rural level, employment generation and food security improvement for neighbouring communities.

Nakedi Poultry Farm was established in 2021 by 32-year-old Itumeleng Bridget Mahwete in Ga Mabuela village under Mapela Tribal Authority. The farm is legally registered with CIPC and in accordance with SARS. Mahwete, Vaal University of Technology National Diploma holder in Internal Auditing and Poultry Management student at Buhle's Farmers Academy, started the farm shortly after she graduated due to a desire to be a farmer as well as a desire to offer job opportunities to community residents.

The farm has two main products: a hatchery that produces Day Old Chicks (DOC) and live broiler chickens. The hatchery produces 3,440 chicks per cycle and the farm owns eight poultry houses, each with a capacity to hold 1,000 chicks. Nakedi Poultry Farm produces approximately 1,000 broiler chickens weekly and occasionally purchases extra fully grown chickens from other farmers to supplement demand in the market.

During the visit, Mayor Tauetsoala and officials lauded Mahwete for her dedication and contribution of the farm to the development of local economies. They said that initiatives like Basadi Temong would provide support, training and mentorship to women farmers and drive increased female participation in agriculture and the development of sustainable rural livelihoods.