

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE LESOTHO SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) BORDER INSPECTION



The P.S of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Mr. Malefetsane Nchaka.

The launching of Sanitary and Phytosanitary border inspection took place on the 10th of January 2019 at the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) Maseru, Lesotho. This event was graced by the presence of the Principal Secretary (P.S) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF) Coordinator, EU Representative, Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA)-Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU), Representatives from the private sector and other government officials. Among others private sector included: PANNAR, Lesotho Milling Company, Lesotho Flour Mills, Shoprite, PicknPay, and Garden Centre. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security through the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) in collaboration with the Department of Crops Services (DOC), implements the Phytosanitary measures through plant health inspection to safeguard the country's agriculture against pests.

During the launch detailed description of SPS measures and their importance as well procedures to obtain SPS certificate were presented by Mr. Sekhonyana Mahase (Chief

Crops Officer) from DOC and Mr. Motlatsi Molatela (Senior Research Officer) from DAR respectively. Both officers indicated that inspection of consignment is necessary to conform to import or export requirements relating to quarantine pests or regulated non-quarantine pests. For the export purposes exporters of agricultural commodities are expected to seek Phytosanitary Certificate from DAR which include:

- Name and address of both exporter and importer
- Name and quality of the commodity
- Sample of commodity and means of conveyance
- Treatment

In his keynote speech the P.S. Mr. Malefetsane Nchaka indicated that Lesotho became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since May 1995, and is therefore bound by rules of multilateral trade which include Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. This SPS component entails the engagement of Phytosanitary Border Inspection and Capacity for the Diagnostic laboratories. The P.S. further highlighted that Lesotho have challenges in relation to international best practice technical regulations which are a major impediment on the ability of the local producers and traders to access EU, as well as other foreign markets. Under this project, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will engage Phytosanitary Border Inspectors in two main ports of entries being; Maseru and Maputsoe. This support helps the country to comply with WTO SPS Agreement and to facilitate Agricultural trade with other countries. In conclusion the P.S thanked EU and SADC offices for never ending contribution to the regional development efforts. He also commended the efforts and enthusiasm of the leadership of the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) for working hard towards domesticating international agreements related to SPS that Government signed.

During this event there were exhibitions from DAR and other companies such as Maputsoe Milling Company and PANNAR.



PANNAR displaying at the Lesotho SPS Launch



Maputsoe Milling Company displaying its “Moja” maize brand.

The Pictures below show the P.S and other dignitaries touring the different stalls during the Lesotho SPS launch.











