



MEDIA RELEASE

13 June 2024

DEPUTY MAYOR HANDS OVER HYDROPHONICS TUNNELS EQUIPMENT IN DE DOORNS

The Executive Deputy Mayor of the Breede Valley Municipality (BVM) Cllr. Juben Von Willingh, handed over farming equipment and supplements to three (3) backyard farmers at Hex Valley Centre in De Doorns. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Lizo Paul, the project coordinator, and councillors Cynthia Nyithana of Ward 2 and Felicity Vaughan of Ward 4.

The farming starter packs received by Kidelo Andrew Zuziwe, Magrieta Prins, and Andries Johannes Francies included wheelbarrows, manure, seedlings, and other agricultural implements to start planting and hiring volunteers. Prior to the handover ceremony, a total of three hydroponics greenhouse tunnels (12m x 3.5m x 2m height) were erected last month as part of the R500 000 grant funding received from the Department of Local Government (DLG) through the Unobuntu Thusong Service Centre (UTSC).

The Deputy Mayor reaffirmed BVM's commitment to ensure the project achieves its desired goals and helps create jobs, skills development, and food security in his keynote address. "We are optimistic that this economic project, which is the first of its kind to be undertaken in De Doorns, will help the community overcome poverty and create jobs. I hope the project will develop over the next few months to the point where these beneficiaries can manage and sustain themselves with their produce" added Von Willingh.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Magrieta Prins, a Women on Farms (NGO) affiliate, hailed the contribution of the starter packs and stated it will greatly enhance and grow their projects. "Being a part of this economic project is a great honour for us, and I do not doubt that this contribution will help us maximise our output and promote food security and economic growth in De Doorns" said Prins.

Issued by the BVM Media & Communications office.

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