

Press Release – For Immediate Release
15 October 2024

Botswana Development Corporation Launches Milk Afric

Lobatse, Botswana – Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) has officially launched the Milk Afric Dairy Project, a groundbreaking initiative that signifies a major step forward in Botswana's pursuit of food security and economic diversification. The launch event in Lobatse brought together key government officials, industry leaders, and local stakeholders, all united in their commitment to unlocking the potential of the dairy sector and creating sustainable growth for the nation.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Cross Kgosidiile, Managing Director of BDC, emphasised the transformative nature of the Milk Afric project. He acknowledged the operational journey of the project, highlighting the challenges and successes that make it unique. "Milk Afric has made significant strides in establishing infrastructure, including boreholes and dairy processing equipment, alongside the procurement of local cattle. This project is not just about dairy; it embodies our commitment to quality production standards and sustainable practices," Kgosidiile stated.

Mr. Botshelo Mokotedi, Caretaker CEO of Milk Afric, provided an overview of the project's operational focus, stressing the company's commitment to high-quality standards and innovation. "We are embracing cutting-edge techniques such as artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and advanced farming technologies. These innovations will enhance efficiency and sustainability while ensuring our products meet both local and international quality requirements," Mokotedi explained. He also underscored Milk Afric's dedication to community development, highlighting the local benefits that the project brings to Lobatse. "By prioritising local procurement and working closely with local farmers, we are not only creating job opportunities but also fostering partnerships that support the growth of the dairy sector," he added. Milk Afric aims to expand its herd from 254 cows to over 2,000, paving the way for future production increases and positioning Botswana as a competitive player in the Southern African dairy market.

Honourable Mmusi Kgafela, Minister of Trade and Industry, delivered the keynote address, articulating the broader significance of the Milk Afric project. He noted that only 15% of Botswana's national milk demand is currently met through local production, highlighting the immense potential for growth and investment. "By developing our dairy sector, we are not just reducing our reliance on imports; we are creating opportunities for local farmers and businesses to thrive," Kgafela remarked. He highlighted key areas for investment, including expanding milk production, increasing heifer numbers, and enhancing dairy product processing capabilities.

The Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Molebatsi Molebatsi, concluded the event with closing remarks, emphasising the government's commitment to building a robust and self-sufficient dairy sector. "Milk Afric is positioned to generate employment, stimulate local businesses, and create ripple effects in surrounding communities. This project is vital for our food security and aligns with the aspirations of Vision 2036 and the Reset Agenda," Molebatsi stated. He also praised the collaborative efforts of stakeholders, including the Botswana Government, BDC, Lobatse Town Council, and local farmers, which have been instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

As Milk Afric embarks on this exciting journey, it is poised to catalyse growth in the dairy industry, fostering innovation and excellence. The project not only represents a significant advancement for Botswana's agricultural sector but also serves as a beacon of hope for economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurial opportunities in the region.

For more information, please contact the following:

Boitshwarelo Lebang-Kgetse

Head - Corporate Affairs

Tel: +267 365 1339

Email: boitshwarelo@bdc.bw

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

ABOUT BDC

Botswana Development Corporation Limited, or 'BDC,' is the country's main agency for commercial and industrial development. Established in 1970, under the Companies Act, BDC is a company Limited by Shares and fully owned by the Government of Botswana. BDC is mandated to provide, facilitate and support funding of commercially viable enterprises that contribute towards building a sustainable and diversified Botswana economy; stimulate the growth of the private sector; to invest in the region and internationally; whilst generating wealth for the Shareholder.

The Corporation invests in commercially viable projects across all sectors of the economy except large-scale diamond mining. These include Energy, Manufacturing, Industry, Property, Services, Tourism, and Technology locally.

Throughout, BDC intends to promote best practices in business, governance and environmental standards in the funds or companies they choose to invest in. BDC conducts its business on a commercial basis and exercises special care and regard to economic and commercial merits.