



Keeping it brief

Gauteng

Plans to develop industries that will produce agricultural products are underway in Gauteng.

The Gauteng Agricultural Development Strategy, will produce products to be sold for the local and international market. A total of R48 million has been budgeted for the plan. – *BuaNews*

Eastern Cape

A multi-million Rand project to renew irrigation schemes in the Eastern Cape province has started. The provincial Department of Agriculture said the schemes are expected to be run and managed by farmers, as well as communities themselves.

The schemes, situated in Tyefu, Keiskamahoe, Zanyokwe, Qamata, Ncora and Shiloh, are expected to create many job opportunities. – *BuaNews*

Limpopo

By the end of June, about 115 families in Mawa village in Limpopo had built houses for themselves. This was part of the Peoples Housing Process, a government plan to get people to help with the construction of their own houses.

The project has built more than 300 houses in the greater Tzaneen municipality in the past five years. The project is in line with the provincial government's goal to have a shack-free Limpopo by 2014. – *BuaNews*.

Northern Cape

President Thabo Mbeki has promised children at the Bright Lights' Children's Home in Pofadder that government will assist them to achieve high education qualifications. President Mbeki visited the children's home as part of his two-day presidential imbizo in the Northern Cape. – *BuaNews*

North West

A campaign to encourage people to live healthy lifestyles has been started. The campaign in the North West province focuses on the dangers of smoking and alcohol abuse. It highlights the benefits of regular exercise, healthy food and safe sex. It also raises awareness on the causes and results of diabetes.

Surveys showed that tobacco kills more than 25 000 people a year. Smoking leads to heart diseases, strokes, tooth decay, cancer and fertility problems. – *BuaNews*

Western Cape

The Western Cape government has increased its tourism budget by 30 per cent this year. This will boost its economy and fight poverty as about 150 000 people are employed in tourism.

Tourism is a growing sector that can be a useful tool in speeding up black economic empowerment. It also assists in fighting poverty and creating jobs. – *BuaNews*

Mpumalanga

With the 2010 Soccer World Cup around the corner, Mpumalanga Department of Local Government and Housing will send people with knowledge to help municipalities in the Ehlanzeni District to ensure that they run smoothly before the World Cup. The plan is a joint partnership between the Mpumalanga government and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. – *BuaNews*

Free State

During his two-day imbizo in the Free State, President Thabo Mbeki met with farmers in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality.

Concerns raised by farmers included the slow pace of land restitution, high land prices, farmers' safety, lack of water for farming, stock theft and financial support. – *BuaNews*.

KwaZulu-Natal

A plan of action to ready KwaZulu-Natal for the 2010 Soccer World Cup has started. Former Amazulu FC goalkeeper, Vuma Mfeka, is leading the effort. It will include soccer coaching programmes, school premier competitions, funding for professional teams in the province, foreign language education, and finding new soccer talent in the rural areas. – *BuaNews*

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