



ECONOMY MATTERS: The agro-processing summit is set to attract 350 emerging provincial farmers and captains of industry.

Small farmers' summit kicks off

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EMERGING farmers and industrialists in the agricultural sector will hold an agro-processing summit hosted jointly by the provincial departments of agriculture and economic development, environment and tourism at the Ranch Hotel outside Polokwane today.

"The summit will attract 350 emerging provincial farmers and captains of industry to invest more in the value chain," Siphon Dikgale, spokesperson for the agriculture department, said.

The department seeks more investment in food processing and other value chain activities to enable the province to export more agricultural products.

Dikgale said that the summit should come up with a strategy to promote food security, integrate emerging black farmers and lessen dependence on food imports.

Poor communities should be empowered to take charge of their nutritional needs by, among others, supporting community household food gardens on a massive scale.

"We will also deliberate on provid-

ing women, youths and people living with disabilities preferential access to Limpopo's agro-processing sector in order to lessen the level of joblessness and poverty," Dikgale said.

Agriculture MEC Joy Matshoge said: "Limpopo continues to contribute as one of the largest primary producers of high value agricultural commodities such as potatoes, tomatoes, citrus, avocados, macadamia nuts and subtropical fruit."

Citrus and macadamia nuts are also among the biggest foreign income earners, the MEC said.

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