



# PROTRACK dagga bust



**WHITE RIVER** - Jaques, Protrack's resident trainee helicopter pilot was flying in a helicopter in the White River Area when a dagga plantation was spotted from the air. Arrangements were subsequently made with the landowner to gain entrance into the property. The team removed a total of 400 plants with a value of roughly R20 000. The dagga was handed in at the White River Police Station.

## Green light for Zandspruit

**Above: Nelson Kopela, Gerrit Jan van der Grijn, Magdelene Lewele, Martin den Dunnen, the Mayor of Maruleng: Junior Mafogo, Tracy den Dunnen, Chairman of the Moletele CPA: Tandios Mashile and Kennith of the tribunal committee.**

**HOEDSPRUIT** – It's all systems go, for the developers of Zandspruit. As of Wednesday 4 March, they have been given the green light to go ahead with their proposed development.

An ecstatic Martin den Dunnen, the founder of Zandspruit and co-developer said: 'This is a huge success story for Hoedspruit especially seen in the light of the working relationship between the Municipality, the Land Claimants and the Developers.'

The Mayor of Maruleng Municipality, Junior

Mafogo, commented that he believes that what they have achieved will be used as a model for future developments by other Municipalities. He added that he strongly believes that Hoedspruit has the potential to become one of the leading communities in sustainable and responsible development.

Martin added: 'Development is inevitable. Through the Zandspruit development we can ensure that the area is developed in a responsible and controlled manner to the benefit of all of the community.'

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## low carbon economy

*In line with Sustainable Living*

**MIDRAND** - President Kgalema Motlanthe has expressed hope that the National Climate Change Conference will through its deliberations draft a national framework which will lead South Africa in becoming a low carbon economy.

The President, addressing the conference on Tuesday, said stakeholders must agree on a policy that would forward the country's response to climate change with the aim of halving South Africa's carbon emissions peak between 2020 and 2025.

"We are duty-bound to define the future response of our nation to this growing challenge of climate change. It is not a surprise that climate change has jumped to the top of government's agenda.

"What is necessary is for comprehensive and concrete global action in order to deal with the growing challenge.

"South Africa is playing a proactive role in the fight against climate change and is active in multinational organizations," the President said.

He added that by the time nations meet at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009, they must have achieved the delicate balance between the needs of developed and developing countries.

Africa is least responsible for climate change, but will pay the highest price for it, Mr. Motlanthe said, explaining that the conference was taking place against the backdrop of a

global financial crisis.

He said the economic crisis is similar to climate change in that developing countries were not responsible for it but would bare the greatest brunt of its effects and in particular the poor.

"Poor communities are the innocent bystanders in this situation, but we must act and act now. We hope that the summit will draft policies that lead South Africa into a transition to a low carbon economy," Mr. Motlanthe said.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Marthinus van Schalkwyk similarly told the conference that the world had learnt much about climate change in the last four years.

Previously a number of climate change sceptics disputed the scientific fact that climate change was destroying the environment and the issue of climate change never featured prominently in government discussions, Mr. van Schalkwyk highlighted.

Last year, however, China, India, Brazil, as well as South Africa and other countries drafted various white papers, policies and draft regulations to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Minister van Schalkwyk expressed hope that political and public support is mobilized at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009, accompanied by massively upscale support for policy implementation. - *BuaNews*

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