

Agra's dream comes true...

Months of planning and hard work paid off with the official opening of the Agra/Standard Bank Ring on 27th June 2003 at the Windhoek Show Grounds by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, Mr. K. Kahuure. In his opening address, Mr. Kahuure praised Agra for its involvement in the agricultural sector in previous years and specifically for its marketing of livestock throughout Namibia in both communal and commercial areas. Mr. Kahuure furthermore appealed to all Namibian livestock producers to make use of facilities, such as the Ring provided by Agra, for the selling and buying of livestock.

Agra CEO, Mr. P. Kazmaier noted Agra's investment of almost N\$ 1,6 million in the establishment of the Ring's effective auction facilities, which will be utilised to cater for commercial and stud auctions in Windhoek and its surrounding areas. A portion of the income generated by auctions will be used to pay rent, water and electricity costs to the Windhoek Show Society.

Individuals who proved instrumental in the successful completion of the project include the entire Agra Livestock team in Windhoek (in particular Mr. Kiep Lepen), Mr. Max Holdt (Agra Property Manager), Messrs. Richard Redecker and Manfred Redecker (Technical Project Consultants) and Mr. Flip Bredenhann (Main Contractor).

Agra's Corporate Bankers, Standard Bank Namibia Ltd. made a financial contribution to the project and was represented by Mr. Theo Mberirua, who presented a speech on behalf of the financial institution, at the opening ceremony.

The official ceremony concluded with a final word of thanks extended by Mr. Ryno van der Merwe, Member of Agra's Board.

It is often said that events that take place after an official event are most memorable, this proved no exception. With the official ceremony concluded, sellers and buyers immediately took their seats for the first official auction. A total of 412 large livestock fell under the hammer from a total offering of 429. At an average price of N\$ 2,127.69 per head, the auction yielded prices above expectations.

On conclusion of the auction, guests were served lunch in large tents pitched in front of the Ring. In a truly convivial atmosphere, guests enjoyed a wonderful social afternoon.

The event was a special one for Agra, specifically because the Co-operative now provides a facility which can be used by producers in the Windhoek area to market their livestock with minimal effort and professional assistance rendered by our livestock Department.

Mr. Pieter Hugo (Agra's Livestock Department manager) indicated that the facility can generate an annual turnover of N\$ 45 million in auctions. Due to its location, the Ring offers the benefits of not only expediting the transport of livestock to central points for slaughter, but additionally providing buyers (local as well as international) with easy access to auctions. In the future, the Ring will be used more intensively for specifically stud animal auctions.

Above and beyond the initial value that will be generated by the Ring, the option of renting out the facility when not in use for sport and recreational activities will create added value for the Windhoek community.

We wish to extend to all our members who will be in the vicinity of Windhoek during the Windhoek Show (29 September – 4 October 2003), a hearty invitation to attend the Windhoek Show Stud Auction (large and small livestock) to be held on Friday, 3rd October 2003...only at the Agra/Standard Bank Ring.