

### A tête-à-tête to TETE

A goat abattoir in Msinga! Always seemed like a good idea on the face of it there were goats -half a million in our estimation and there were people with protein needs and these goats were being slaughtered. Our project partners in the department of agriculture dived in with this launch of the goat abattoir.

#### **Northern KZN Courier February 11, 2016**

Get ready... goat meat will soon be for supper

“Goats are largely drought-resistant and we believe that in an area which already has a large goat population it is a natural and worthwhile development.”

The Umzinyathi District could soon become the hub of a thriving goat commodity initiative to promote the sale and consumption of goat meat as an alternative source of cheaper protein.

The future of the commercialising of goat farming was further cemented when Premier Senzo Mchunu took part in a sod-turning ceremony to mark the site of a new goat abattoir in Mphelankani in the Msinga area.

Msinga is one of the poorest municipalities in the country. About 85 percent of the population are dependent on social grants and 71 percent of the population is under the age of 30. Young people in the area have few post-school opportunities and no jobs.

Cyril Xaba, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, said it is hoped to change this by adopting a ‘battle plan’ to help eradicate poverty.



Here Cyril Xaba MEC Department  
Agriculture

Premier of the KZN province Senzo  
Mchunu

Speaker of the local municipality

And Nkosi Mabaso on whose land it is  
attend the sod turning

Now to find plans and examples of goat abattoirs -there are none in South Africa -or Namibia- or Botswana – or Lesotho -or Zimbabwe – finally we are informed there is one in Mozambique – great right next door – umm – no the town of Tete almost is half way between Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi. An old Swahili trading post that became a strategic town with its bridge over the Zambezi during the civil war and important town during the building of Cabora Basa dam.

The Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA) a year after being told to build the abattoir asks us to assist through our NGO contacts to visit such a place.

Through ILRI and Saskia Hendricx we get contacts through the head state vet of TETE province.

Planned for December 2016 we finally got to visit in September 2017.

We fly in to Tete, a three times a week flight from Johannesburg. Three of us from the Goat. Agribusiness NGO and two ADA and two farmers who are going to build the abattoir



Baobabs seem to cover the landscape from the plane window

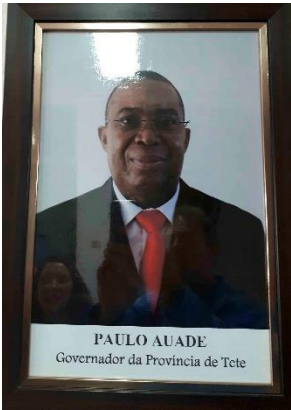


The Tete airport



The Samora Machal bridge built by South Africa for the Portuguese in 1976 dominates the town

We are met by the Governor of the province, the head of Agriculture head of Vet department and were given the freedom of the province



Tete is growing with coal discovered just outside the town and it being the closest airport to Caborra Basa



Vegetable sellers in the town – local ladies -the snack of choice is dry roasted peanuts – and these 3wheel scooters the taxis – the shops seem largely owned by the Chinese now.





The Save river just outside town with washing and swimming



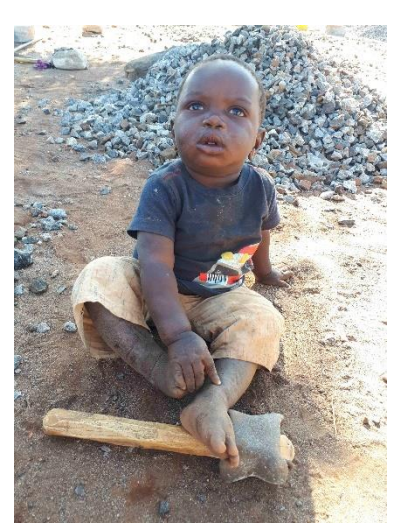
The Zambezi not a soul in sight apparently the crocs are unbelievable and hippos float around under the bridge.

We visited goat projects near the Cabora Bassa dam and swung by for lunch -a long windy drive down to the dam – and!!! Nothing – you cant go near the dam wall but there is nothing there anyway no boats no people no nothing – this rotting metal something and that’s it – the dam wall is to the right 300 metres away

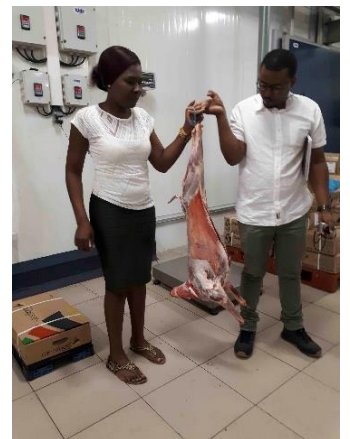


The villages area small very rural and very poor – the people small – even the Maputo based officials say that it’s a small tribe





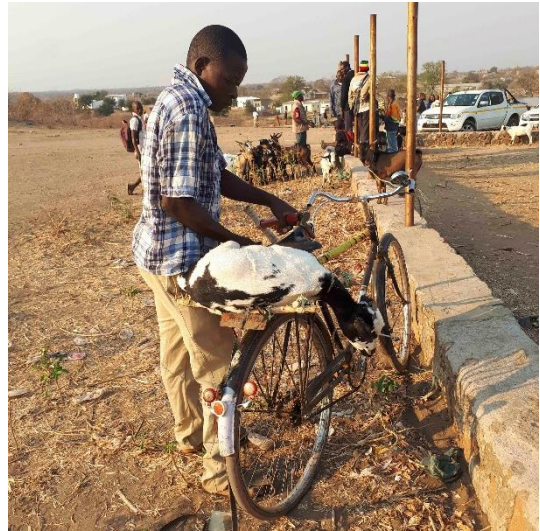
We went to the abattoir and meat processing plant- they sacrifice the goats halal, freeze, process and export to Maputo by truck an 18 hour truck drive – for all the Zulus with us an unthinkable process.



Goat meat is sold in supermarkets and eaten as an alternative to beef or chicken. All sorts of delicacies beyond meat cuts like goats balls (tin tins) --tripe tied with intestine stuffed with liver – called Nkongwe . We enquired about skins and tanning but apparently the skins are sold to the local crocodile farm as food for the crocodiles.

The livestock (and goat) market we visited was held three times a week in a village half way to Cabora Bassa.

The goats arrive by truck motorbike and bicycle all tied by the feet with one front foot free and for some reason very calm despite there traveling arrangements.



The goats are in good condition - no ticks at all and cheap -about R330 quarter of the price of South African goats the same size. They are bought by size or weight with a lot of arguing about prices – there is some attempt for the state to keep track of sales but despite strong assurances we say much informal unlogged trade -it was also not clear how far the goats were coming in from as the census of goats for the area did not support the sales out of the area.



The market of course is not only goats there are chickens Guinee fowls and fresh goat meat



Tomatoes



Millet, peanuts, fish



And heading home



Grain storage at most homes in the villages



The river beds are sandy and flat and are the other roads in the area

The baobabs are everywhere



The visit was very thought provoking -much to mull and think about and follow up on for future collaboration – the abattoir well the ADA will report on this.

