



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KZN BAGS A TOP AWARD AT THIS YEARS FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

“You empower a woman you empower a nation” That was the feel of the night, which was echoed through the theme of this years Female Entrepreneur of the year awards held at the Botanic Gardens in Durban.

“Uniting to empower women to achieve economic freedom through Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries” is the actual theme driving these awards, which strive to see the recognition of women who are actively participating in agriculture in the country.

MEC Xaba joined by Deputy Minister Bheki Cele was delighted at Hlengiwe Hlophe of Ukwanda Farm Pty Ltd after she won the coveted prize of the Top Entrepreneur: Commercial. Ukwanda farm recently took the top honours at the provincial FEA when they won the overall winner prize, taking home over R300 000 in prize money. Hlengiwe Hlophe said her piggery, poultry, maize and wheat production farm has come a long way to be where it is now “It has taken years of perseverance, hardwork and determination, but this is a sign for greater things to come” she said.

Ukwanda farm is 80ha of land under the operation of a number of enterprises including poultry, piggery and crops. Their main markets are retail, hotels and local mines in the Bergville-Winterton area.

MEC Xaba said such awards are key to development of agriculture “this occasion is serving as a catalyst to invigorate the passion for agriculture in the youth. The farming sector has an aging community at an estimated average of 63 years so by seeing young female farmers winning agricultural awards proves there is a future in agriculture” he added

All the categories were awarded with R250 000 in prize money including a tablet with Agri-suite online except for the Young Female Entrepreneur awards which received R100 000 each and the overall winner that received R500 000 in prize money.

Here are some of the winners at event:

1. Best Female Worker: Kelebogile Reah Mampe from Northern Cape
2. Best Subsistence producer: Tenjiwe Christina Kaba from the Western Cape
3. Top Entrepreneur Small-holder: Nompumelelo Mdlalose form Gauteng Province
4. Top Entrepreneur Processing: Julia Shungube from Mpumalanga Province
5. Top Entrepreneur Commercial: Hlengiwe Hlophe from KwaZulu-Natal
6. Top Entrepreneur Export markets: Buyiswa Marrie Ndyenga from the Eastern Cape
7. Young female Entrepreneur:
 - 7.1 Thato Moagi from Limpopo
 - 7.2 Mmakgomo Machakela from North West
 - 7.3 Nompumelelo Mdlalose(Minister's choice) from Gauteng province
8. Disabled female entrepreneur: Avryl Cox from the Eastern Cape



KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba together with Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Deputy Minister General Bheki Cele arriving at the 16th DAFF Female Entrepreneur Awards



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries National Minister Mr Senzeni Zokwana together KZN MEC Cyril Xaba having a light moment at the 16th DAFF Female Entrepreneur Awards



MEC Cyril Xaba congratulating KZN Winner Top Entrepreneur Commercial Award Ms Hlengiwe Hlophe



From left Agriculture, Forestry Deputy Minister General Bheki Cele, KZN Winner Top Entrepreneur Commercial Award Ms Hlengiwe Hlophe, KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, Total SA General Manager Ms Tumisang Zondo and General Manager OMNIA Mr Tshepo Maseko celebrating the Top Entrepreneur Commercial Award



MEC Cyril Xaba together with Eastern Cape MEC for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, Mr Mlibo Qoboshiyana



From left KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, Mpumalanga MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Adries Gamede, Total SA CEO Mr Christian Des Closiers, DAFF FEA 2015 Overall Winner Ms Julia Shungube, First Lady of the Republic of South Africa Mrs Sizakele Ma Khumalo Zuma, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries National Minister Mr Senzeni Zokwana, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Deputy Minister General Bheki Cele and Eastern Cape MEC for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Mr Mlibo Qoboshiyana celebrating with the Overall Winner

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