



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS CALLED ON PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE TO EXPEDITE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

King Goodwill Zwelithini has urged the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to fast-track the provision of water services for irrigation purposes in order to enhance agricultural work of rural communal subsistence farmers who often experience poor harvests due to a lack of adequate water resources.

His Majesty said this during the official visit by the KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, at Linduzulu Royal Palace in KwaNongoma yesterday, where the MEC outlined the objectives of the budget that was tabled in the KZN Legislature on July 30.

During this visit, the King shared with the MEC the urgent need to assist communities with irrigation services, especially those that rely on farming for survival and hard hit by the recent drought.

This, the King said should be done by scooping of dams and drilling of boreholes amongst others in order to preserve and provide clean water for livestock and crop irrigation.

In order to address this and other challenges the MEC outlined Departmental programmes that are aimed at eradicating water shortages for agricultural purposes.

“To ensure sustainable rural development, Rural Socio-Economic Strategy will be developed in the current financial year through a consultative approach with stakeholders, strategic partners, relevant departments, district and local municipalities,” said MEC Sithole-Moloi.

This Strategy will ensure co-ordination, integration and implementation of all programmes within the national, provincial and local sphere that will embrace a strong and economically viable rural economy.

This process will outline the Department's vision of advancing comprehensive rural development in KZN that is centered on viable livelihoods and expanding economic opportunities for rural citizens for sustained development.

However, the MEC stated that there are already irrigation schemes that have been finalized in Hlathikhulu, Tugela, Indumo and Insuze.

This year's total Departmental budget tabled by the MEC amounts to R2.4 Billion.



DAILY SUN

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THOUSANDS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICERS ACROSS THE PROVINCE RECEIVE UNIFORM CLOTHING GEAR

As part of the drive to rejuvenate operations in the agricultural extension services, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Mrs Bongwiwe Sithole- Moloi, has launched the provincial corporate service gear for all the extension officers in KZN.

The aim of the launch is to professionalise the Extension Advisory Services in order to instill a new, revitalised approach to agriculture to inculcate a culture of excellent service delivery and professionalism in the workplace.

Extension Advisory services are at the core of agricultural development in the Province and are at the forefront of service delivery and at the coalface of the farming sector.

Over 1000 Extension Advisory officers looked stunning and quite professional in their corporate services gear when they converged at the Umhlathuze Sports Complex in Mpangeni on Tuesday 20 August during the launch.

The launch has come at a critical moment in the operation of the Department as the MEC is gearing up for the rolling-out of the programmes aimed at assisting rural communities to achieve their agricultural goals.

Speaking during this occasion Mrs. Sithole Moloji said the wearing of uniform by extension officers will guide against dereliction of duty by officers who are sometimes found in areas outside the scope of their work during work hours.

She said it will also circumvent any acts of criminality by the members of society who sometimes act as extension officers to achieve sordid ends. One case of imposters was recently reported in Utrecht when a group of people stormed into a land reform farm claiming to be employees of the Department and demanded the farmers to provide them with crucial information about their Cooperative.