



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2021 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

<https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/government-assists-unemployed-kzn-agriculture-graduates-hundreds-placed-in-over-100-farms-4514a44f-1c90-482b-b98a-574c8607fd23>

Government assists unemployed KZN agriculture graduates, hundreds placed in over 100 farms



The KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development launched the provincial Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme (UAGP) held in Dannhauser, near Newcastle over the weekend. Picture: Supplied.

Published Jun 27, 2021

DURBAN - THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has come to the aid of unemployed graduates in this province.

It has placed more than 400 unemployed graduates in 109 farms across the province this year.

The department revealed this during the launch of the provincial Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme held in Dannhauser, near Newcastle, over the weekend.

During the launch, MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi said the programme was a crucial step towards the successful revival of more 1500 land reform farms that remain unprofitable in the province.

Through the programme Sithole-Moloi said the department was making vital strides in ensuring that all youth, especially unemployed agricultural graduates, populate the sector with young, fresh, and innovative minds as part of ensuring the successful resuscitation of fallow farms.

She also said that the department was hoping to get 1 000 agriculturalists from the 10 000 that were being deployed to provinces by the national government.

She said this would help in beefing up the number of graduates that had been placed and would radically transform the sector.

“The intention is not only to increase the number of professional young agriculturalists that have a diverse variety of skills servicing the communal areas in all its value chains. Ours is to establish a database of all agricultural graduates exiting tertiary,” said Sithole-Moloi.

She further said that the department also wants to know where they go, the number of those employed and unemployed, those running their business as well as their fields of specialisation.

“We want to establish if their skills are geared to drive agriculture in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and what numbers we must place in commercial farms per year to make a real difference in all value chains,” concluded Sithole-Moloi.

THE MERCURY

Uhlelo lokutshalwa komthunzi wezinkukhu eKZN



UMNYANGO wezoLimo nokuThuthukiswa kweziNdawo zaseMakhaya KwaZulu-Natal, sewethule uhlelo lokutshalwa kwamthunzi wezinkukhu esifundazweni. Isithombe: Henk Kruger/ANA/African News Agency

Sabelo Nsele | May 21, 2021

UMNYANGO wezoLimo nokuThuthukiswa kweziNdawo zaseMakhaya KwaZulu-Natal, sewethule uhlelo lokutshalwa kwamthunzi wezinkukhu esifundazweni.

Lolu hlelo lwethulwe ungqongqoshe walo mnyango, uNkk Bongsi Sithole-Moloi, ngesikhathi ethula isabelosezimali salo mnyango esiShayamthetho , izolo.

UNkk Sithole-Moloi uthe njengoba sekusemthethweni ukutshalwa komthunzi wezinkukhu, umnyango usuhlonze izindawo ezinhlanu ezikhungweni zocwaningo zomnyango, lapho kuzohlolwa khona ukuthi uzovuma yini umthunzi wezinkukhu.

“Zonke lezi zikhungo zizocwaninga izinhlobo ezehlukene zensangu ngenhloso yokuthola lezo ezivumayo esifundeni ngasinye. Lokhu kuzodala ukuthi sitshale insangu ezindaweni lapho ivuma khona ezindaweni zaseMkhanyakude, King Cetshwayo, Harry Gwala, uMgungundlovu noThukela.

“Inhloso yalolu hlelo ukubheka amathuba okukhiqizwa kwensangu kanye nezitshalo eziyimithi yokwelapha ezingadala inzuzo kubantu emazingeni emiphakathi.”

Lo mnyango uzosebenzisana nezikhungo iMoses Kotane Institute, Cannagrow SA neGrafted Hemp Farms kulolu hlelo.

UNkk Sithole-Moloi uphinde waveza ukuthi umnyango umatasa uzama ukuthola izigidi ngezigidi zamaRandi ezidingeka ukuvuselela amapulazi abuyiselwa kubantu.

UNkk Sithole-Moloi uthe ucwaningo lomnyango lukhombisa ukuthi kudingeka uR5.5 billion ukuze kuvuselelwe amapulazi. “Uhlelo lokwesekela intuthuko yabalimi lomnyango ngeke lube namandla okwesekela lolu hlelo lokuvuselelwa kwamapulazi. Uma umnyango uqhubeka nokuqalisa lolu hlelo kuzodingeka ukuba kwandiswe izinhlaka kanye nesibalo sabasebenzi.

“Ngenxa yokuthi umnyango ngeke ube nayo yonke imali edingekayo, kungcono ulwenze kancane ngezigaba kepha kulandelwa zonke izigaba zokuvuselelwa kwamapulazi. Kubalulekile-ke, ukubalula ukuthi uma sivuselela amapulazi sizodinga ukwandiselwa imali.

UNkk Sithole-Moloi uthe amapulazi abuyiselwa kubantu adlala indima enkulu ekuqinisekiseni ukuthi kunokudla okwanele ezweni lonke nasesifundazweni.

“Yingakho-ke kunesidingo sokuthi kwengezwe imali yesabelo ukuze sivuselele amapulazi. Yize umnyango usazoxoxa nezikhungo zezimali ezesekela intuthuko kanye namabhange azimele, kepha isifundazwe kuzodingeka naso sengeze ukuze luqalwe lolu hlelo lokuvuselelwa kwamapulazi.”

Sesiphelele isabelomali salo mnyango, singaphezu kukaR2.5 billion.

ISOLEZWE

<https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/kzn-agriculture-and-rural-development-mec-sithole-moloi-calls-for-youth-participation-in-the-farming-sector-b6693141-0878-4a0f-98f3-c6a619c37d34>

KZN Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Sithole-Moloi calls for youth participation in the farming sector



KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Bongiwé Sithole-Moloi, during the launch of River Valley farm which is a 10 hectare farm in New Hanover under uMshwathi Local Municipality. Picture Supplied.

Published Aug 31, 2021

DURBAN: KZN Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Bongiwé Sithole-Moloi has called on young people to lead and play a significant role in the agricultural sector.

She was speaking during the launch of River Valley farm which is a 10-hectare property in New Hanover under uMshwathi Local Municipality. The farm is a 100% black-owned farm and employs 60 permanent personnel.

Sithole-Moloi said that the current farmers are ageing, which necessitated the involvement of the youth.

“Young people have been trained and facilitated in modern and innovative agricultural methods. For us to increase agricultural productivity, it is critical to introduce young people with fresh knowledge and ideas,” she said.

Sithole-Moloi commended the River Valley Farm, which sells a large volume of fresh produce through pack houses who are supplying Pick n Pay and other retail stores.

The farm also supplies the eThekweni Fresh Produce Market, Pietermaritzburg Fresh Produce Market and local wholesalers and supermarkets.

In addition, the farm has been able to tap into international markets.

Sithole-Moloi announced that the department would also support 152 female farmer projects in the 2021/22 financial year. According to the department, the approximately R57.18 million would be used to support these female owned projects.

“Support is provided to both individually-owned and group-owned female farmer projects. The department supported 27 female farmer projects in the 2020/2021 financial year earmarked for future commercial production with a total investment of approximately R52.88m,” she said.

She said the department was also looking into increasing the Agribusiness Development Agency budget for funding women-owned projects from R40m this year, to R85m next year.

Sithole-Moloi added that she had ordered that 50% of all agricultural projects funded by the department be allocated to women beneficiaries.

She called on all women to begin to organise themselves into business niches that cater for each need in the value chain.

THE MERCURY

Illovo SA cane development project to create 860 jobs in KZN



Edgar Bruggemann (Illovo Sugar South Africa), Bongwiwe Sithole-Moloi (MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development), Nomvula Shoji (Contractor), Minister Thokozile Didiza (Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development), Nomanesi Ngcobo (Grower), Mamongae Mahlare (MD, Illovo Sugar South Africa) and Celeste Mdletshe (Illovo Sugar SA HR Director). Photo: Supplied

Published Jun 9, 2021

AGRICULTURE, Land Reform and Rural Development Minister Thoko Didiza yesterday hailed sugar giant Illovo South Africa for the successful culmination of its R127 million life-changing Small-Scale Grower (SSG) Cane Development Project, which has created more than 860 sustainable jobs in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) while empowering women to participate in the rural economy.

Through National Treasury's Jobs Fund, Illovo Sugar SA initiated a project to develop up to 3 000 hectares of small-scale grower cane land in KZN, resulting in the creation of 1 188 new jobs and the training of 1 630 people.

As part of Illovo Corporate Social Investment initiatives, almost R20 million has been invested in education projects over the past seven years.

The under-supply of sugar cane into the South Coast mills necessitated action to be taken to re-establish sugar cane in the SSG areas that were lying fallow and within close proximity of the affected mills. A sustainable development model was sought to ensure the future cane supply in the SSG areas.

The project also takes place as the sugar industry is on its knees as a result of plunging world sugar prices and as a sugar tax has added to the industry's burden.

The project was aimed at ensuring equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth through leveraging sugar cane as a catalyst for rural development, while ensuring a secure supply to the Illovo mills.

To this end, Illovo Sugar SA committed to develop contiguous areas of tribal land to sugar cane, develop and empower previously disadvantaged cane growers and contractors, create employment and

contribute to development in the rural areas, create SMME service providers and increase cane supply to the Illovo Sugar mills.

In partnership with the Jobs Fund, which provided 50 percent of the R127 million capital, while the remaining 35 percent was taken as loans by the growers from Micro Agricultural Finance Institution of South Africa, with Illovo underwriting the debt. The project has created a thriving small-scale growers project on the Ingonyama Trust land.

Illovo's Small-Scale Grower Cane Development Project is seen as a clear validation of the great potential that existed for partnerships between businesses and their host communities on the one hand, and government on the other, to reduce poverty and stimulate economic activity.

The collaborative multi-stakeholder approach to bring a local system of innovation to life in just three years has resulted in 1 704 growers being given the opportunity to develop cane on their land.

This project has created direct jobs in rural communities while implementing socio-economic and enterprise development initiatives and the transfer of valuable farming and business skills.

By leveraging on the built capabilities and securing a spot in the Illovo Sugar value chain, communities would earn upwards of R80 million in income annually. Since the capacity to work the land resided within the communities in the form of the upskilled local contractors, there was a multiplier effect as this new money was spent within the community and was catalytic to broader economic activity.

BUSINESS REPORT

SUPPORT PROGRAMME ENABLING KZN SMALL-SCALE FARMERS TO POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL FARMERS

BY GCIS VUK'UZENZELE -10 February 2021 - 07:00



<https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/sebenza-live/2021-02-10-support-programme-enabling-kzn-small-scale-farmers-to-potential-commercial-farmers/#:~:text=A%20R57.2,make%20their%20farms%20commercially%20successful>

A R57.2 million support programme is enabling small-scale farmers in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to buy the tractors, implements, fertiliser, seeds and seedlings needed to make their farms commercially successful.

Speaking at the launch of the Farmer Support Package (FSP) initiative in Dondotha, uMfolozi, KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Bongwe Sithole-Moloi said the FSP will help the province go back to the basics of producing its own food by providing dedicated and efficient support to potential commercial farmers.

She said the FSP will be the engine that powers the growth and development of multi-planting season campaigns, which will see under-utilised land being better used to grow food.

The FSP will enable communities to fight poverty and hunger by cultivating the land available in their villages and backyards.

Sithole-Moloi said food insecurity remains a critical challenge affecting people's social conditions due to rising unemployment, poverty and inequality.

"The introduction of the FSP today, is a clear statement that we are determined and stand ready to provide a dedicated and efficient support package to all the agricultural value chains that are key drivers to the province's sustainable economic growth and transformation," she said.

The MEC said the province wants to see the mass production of food by local farmers and would support this by giving material support to emerging farmers.

Sithole-Moloi said buying existing commercial farms is not the only way to enter the agriculture sector. Another way, she said, is by using 'the very land available in our villages and our backyards'. The package will help ramp-up agricultural production in KZN, following a decline of 7% in the last quarter.

"These figures affect commercial, emerging and small-scale farming. In line with this, the department has assessed at least 39 land reform farms as part of the multi-million rand farmer support package aimed at claiming back to production over 772 million hectares of arable land lying fallow on over 1 200 farms province-wide, this year," she said.

KZN farmers wanting more information can visit their nearest Department of Agriculture and Rural Development office, call 033 355 9100 or visit www.kzndard.gov.za.

Daily News

<https://www.iol.co.za/lifestyle/family/pets/vaccinations-critical-to-eliminating-canine-rabies-in-sa-by-2030-40a09fa7-033c-4d96-8862-bafbb3fc148a>

Vaccinations 'critical' to eliminating canine rabies in SA by 2030



Afrivet came to the rescue by supplying Veterinary Services with a new double cab bakkie to alleviate this constraint. Pictures: Kevin le Roux the Rabies Project Manager from KZN DARD

Published Mar 24, 2021

DURBAN – KwaZulu-Natal has reported a spike in rabies cases, and the lives of two children in the area have been claimed.

It has been estimated that rabies kills one person every 10 minutes globally. The tragedy lies in the fact that these deaths are preventable.

Many cases go unreported

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that affects all mammals and is transmissible from animals to humans. The virus is transmitted via the saliva of infected animals through licks, scratches, bites and contact with mucous membranes.

It is important to note that South Africa has two types of rabies, rabies in dogs and a different subtype circulating in mongoose.

According to information available, at least 39 animal rabies cases have been confirmed in KZN and 17 in the Eastern Cape Province since the beginning of the year. This does not include the figures of the other South African provinces, and the worst part is that there are many cases that go unreported.



According to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WHO), 56% of global human rabies fatalities occur in Asia and 44% in Africa.

This explains why major health organisations, including WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, have pledged to eliminate human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030.

Rabies vaccination goal

Dr Didi Claassen, from Afrivet, believes that achieving this goal is possible in South Africa with strategic planning, sufficient pet vaccination and joint efforts of the veterinary and medical professions, as well as pet owners.

Children are inclined to play with animals and do not realise the risk after being scratched or bitten, so they are the age group most affected, which is devastating.

While rabies is a 100% vaccine-preventable disease, vaccination is often neglected due to the lack of awareness, cost, and access to registered health professionals.

It is crucial to get the proper medical help when being exposed to an animal possibly infected with rabies by immediately alerting a medical practitioner.

Community members need to understand how to treat a wound that might lead to infection. Any bite wound or saliva contact from either a dog or cat needs to be washed with soap and water for at least 10 – 15 minutes as soon as possible after the contact, and thereafter, urgent medical assistance must be sought.

Medical practitioners should also know who to contact for advice when confronted with a suspect rabies exposure case to ensure that the correct post-exposure protocols are followed.

While Covid-19 has increased our germ protection awareness, there has been a setback in the immunisation and prevention programmes for rabies, and this has contributed to a poorly immunised pet population and the spread of this disease.

Vaccination of pets is the most effective way to reduce the risk of this disease. Rabies vaccination of pets is enforced by law in South Africa and available at no cost from your local state veterinary officials. Some private vets also provide rabies vaccinations at a reduced cost.

The awareness campaign themes that were initiated in 2020 by veterinary stakeholders during the Covid 19 pandemic was “End rabies: collaborate, vaccinate”. This is aimed at raising awareness about the disease and bringing together partners to enhance prevention and control efforts nationally.

Vaccination campaigns rolled out throughout the country

In response to the high number of cases reported and the relaxation on Covid-19 restrictions, vaccination campaigns have been rolled out in KZN and will continue throughout this month.

Similar campaigns are organised in other provinces after rabies outbreaks. Pet owners should be on the lookout for these advertisements and warnings issues by their provincial veterinary services. Didi believes that public education and awareness regarding rabies, especially in the rural areas where rabies is more common, will benefit this cause.

However, people should not feel relaxed in urban areas, either. Knowledge of rabies saves lives. Recently, vaccination campaigns have been delayed in some areas as there have been issues surrounding the safety of the provincial department's immunisation crew and hijacking of their vehicles. It is important for communities to support these vaccination crews; they are there to serve and protect and should not feel unsafe.

Didi says that the main take-home message is that pet owners should vaccinate their pets. The government offers free rabies vaccinations at state veterinary facilities for dogs and cats (the latter are often overlooked in rabies outbreaks and vaccinations).

THE WITNESS

Government employee suspended after running over a boy (12) in a state vehicle in KZN



A 12-year-old boy was buried at the weekend after being run over by a vehicle allegedly belonging to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The incident took place on the R617 in Mpophomeni, in the KZN Midlands on Monday last week.

Agriculture and rural development MEC Bongiwe Moloi-Sithole said the employee involved in the accident has been suspended from work pending an internal investigation to ascertain what happened during the accident.

She said the department will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the employee involved is brought to book if found guilty.

She has also made a call to state vehicle drivers to obey the rules and to be extra cautious when driving on public roads.

Moloi-Sithole said the process of providing counselling to the boy's family and his friends has begun.

She said a team, comprising of senior officials from the department of social development and agriculture and rural development on Tuesday visited the Ngqulunga home to offer condolences and assistance to the grieving family. The team first visited the home on Thursday last week.

MEC Sithole-Moloi said it was agreed that the departments would continue to provide psychological counselling and other social relief packages for the family.