



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2022

NEWSPAPER

ARTICLES

KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development launches graduate programme for unemployed graduates



<https://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/kwazulu-natal/pics-kzn-department-of-agriculture-and-rural-development-launches-graduate-programme-for-unemployed-graduates-b914ceb0-1698-4d49-ae4b-97bd8fbd9b70>

KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi launched the Unemployed Agricultural Graduate Programme at Ntathakusa Citrus Farm in Eshowe. Picture: Supplied

Published Jun 26, 2022

Durban — KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi has launched the Unemployed Agricultural Graduate Programme and called on the agricultural sector to spearhead efforts to reduce the unemployment rate among youth with agricultural qualifications.

Sithole-Moloi launched the Unemployed Agricultural Graduate Programme at Ntathakusa Citrus Farm in Eshowe, northern KZN, on Friday where she met graduates who are already placed in the workforce following the intervention of the programme.

“We all know how our young people struggle in the South African labour market. The official overall unemployment rate in the 4th quarter of 2021 was 35.3%. This rate was 46.3% among young people aged 15-34 years.

“This implies that almost one in every two young people in the labour force did not have a job in the last quarter of 2021,” Sithole-Moloi said.

She said young people account for 59.5% of the total number of unemployed persons in South Africa

The MEC said it was of concern that the youth, those aged between 15 and 24 years, are more vulnerable in the labour market with an unemployment rate of more than 63%.

The Unemployment Agricultural Graduate portal is part of the department’s interventions in efforts to rescue the youth from worrying unemployment figures

“We, as a department, want to ensure that this portal becomes a more valuable tool/network for opportunities and information to unemployed graduates, even linking them with sector role players towards employability within the entire agricultural value chain,” Sithole-Moloi said.

She said the department is hard at work to change the portal into a key tool in empowering young agriculturalists towards entrepreneurship and employability in the agricultural sector.

Ntathakusa Citrus Farm owner Sibusiso Gumede said the programme is quite helpful in adding value to the farm.

Two unemployed graduates are mentored on the farm

“It helps a lot because these young graduates are people who are energetic and willing to work. The youth get valuable practical experience and they get the chance to be employable once they complete the programme.

“I have noticed that in the first year of mentorship they are usually not clued up about how the farm operates. It is the second year when they show signs of progress and knowledge. Unfortunately, that is the final year of the programme. I wish the programme could be extended to three years,” Gumede said.

Programme beneficiary Siyabonga Mhlongo said when he arrived on the farm he had no knowledge of how a citrus farm operates but after receiving mentorship he feels that he is ready to work on his own farm.

“I would like to get a farm where I can work on my own after having acquired experience in this farm. This is a very important programme and it helps us a lot.

“We also appreciate the stipend we receive under the programme. I only need to familiarise myself with the farm payroll system so that it would be easy when I’m carrying on on my own to deal with employees,” Mhlongo said.

The department revealed that it was currently planning a new programme which allows for graduates who have exited the on-farm placement programme to apply for opportunities to become incubators, instructors or coaches on DARD-funded projects or identified small to medium-scale enterprises.

Daily News

Kumiswe ukulobola nokuhlaba kudlanga amatele

Bongiwe Zuma | March 19, 2022



SEKUMISWE uhlelo lokulobola nokulobolelana kwezinye zezingxenye zaKwaZulu-Natal kulandela ukubheduka kwesifo samatele.

UNGGQONGQOSHE wezoLimo nokuThuthukiswa kweziNdawo zaseKhaya uNkk Bongsiwe Sithole Moloi ehlangene nabanikazi bezinkomo ediphini eBukhipha KwaHlabisa lapho amadiphu amaningi esetheleleke ngesifo samatele Isithombe: Bongsiwe Zuma

UNkk Sithole Moloi uthetheleke nethimba longoti bezilwane kwagonywa nezinkomo eziwu-800 kanti bekugonywe nezinye eziwu-1025 kuyona le ndawo. Uthe ukumisa ukulobola kuyingxenye yokuvimbela ukusabalala kwalesi sifo.

"Bangithintile abaholi bekhala ngokuthi siyabhidlanga kunokuthi sinciphe lesi sifo. Bafikile odokotela kwatholakala ukuthi asemaningi amadiphu athelelekile, ngakho ukudayiswa kwenyama kuyavalwa, nokulobolelana. Nanoma ngabe yiluphi usiko ebesilusebenzisa ngemfuyo yethu kuzovalwa. Sicela ukuthi abantu bathi ukuma kancane ukulobolana kulungiswe isimo zigonywe izinkomo.

Ukugonywa kwezinkomo kuzosiza kungathathi isikhathi eside ukulwa nalesi sifo, nani ningagcini senichitha imali eningi nizama ukuzelaphela emakhaya. Iqiniso lithi noma zibalwa izinkomo aziphelele ngoba kukhona abakholelwa ukuzelaphela emakhaya," kusho uNkk Sithole Moloi.

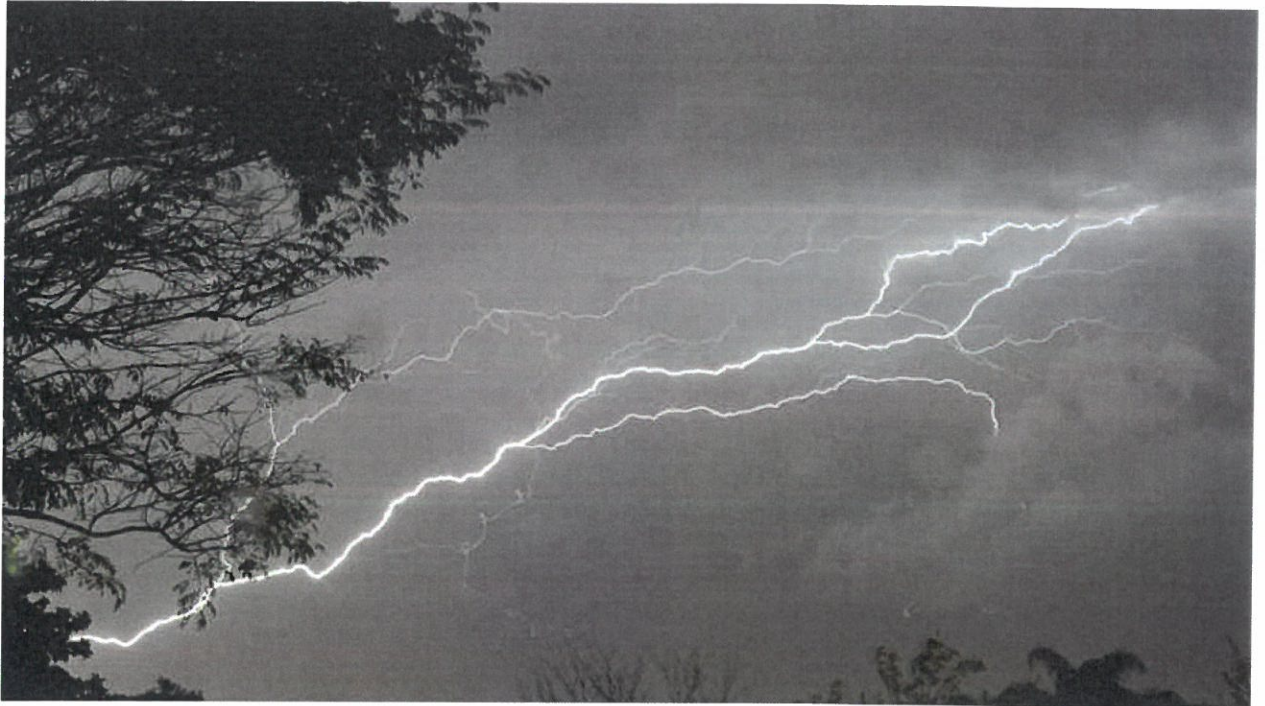
USihlalo woMkhanyakude Livestock uMnuzbhekiseni Mbatha uthethe bayaseseka kakhulu izinqumo zomnyango ngoba ukudayiswa kwenyama ngasese, ukushushumbisa izinkomo ezingagomile nokulobolelana ngezinkomo ezinalesi sifo kuzosibebhethekisa ngokweqile isifo samatele. "Siyacela impela bakithi obesenezinhlelo zokuyoloba balinde kancane kudlule lesi simo.

Sifuna kube nezivimba mgwaqo ukuqinisekisa ukuthi ayikho imfuyo eshushumbiswa ngasese. EMtubatuba, KwaHlabisa naseHluhluwe sifuna zigonywe zonke izinkomo ingabibikho ezosala ngaphandle. Sizwe kuthiwa umgomo uyabiza ulandwa eBotswana kodwa siyathemba sizophumelela isicelo sethu ngoba sekufike nongqongqoshe," kusho uMbatha.

ISOLEZWE

<https://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/kwazulu-natal/22-head-of-cattle-struck-dead-by-lightning-in-northern-kwazulu-natal-over-the-weekend-9cc2d854-1662-4e92-b752-b752-faa319b7df7f>

22 head of cattle struck dead by lightning in northern KwaZulu-Natal over the weekend



More than eight communities were affected, as well as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's research station. Picture: Karen Sandison

DURBAN - Twenty head of cattle were struck by lightning and killed over the weekend in Kokstad, northern KwaZulu-Natal.

KZN Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) MEC Bongwiwe Sithole-Moloi said she would be visiting the area on Tuesday where the cattle were killed and the assessment would include coming up with preventive measures to mitigate the effects of such disasters in the future.

Sithole-Moloi expressed deep concern about the impact of climate change on the communities. This follows recent floods that engulfed the Midlands, leaving many communities destitute and affecting farm production.

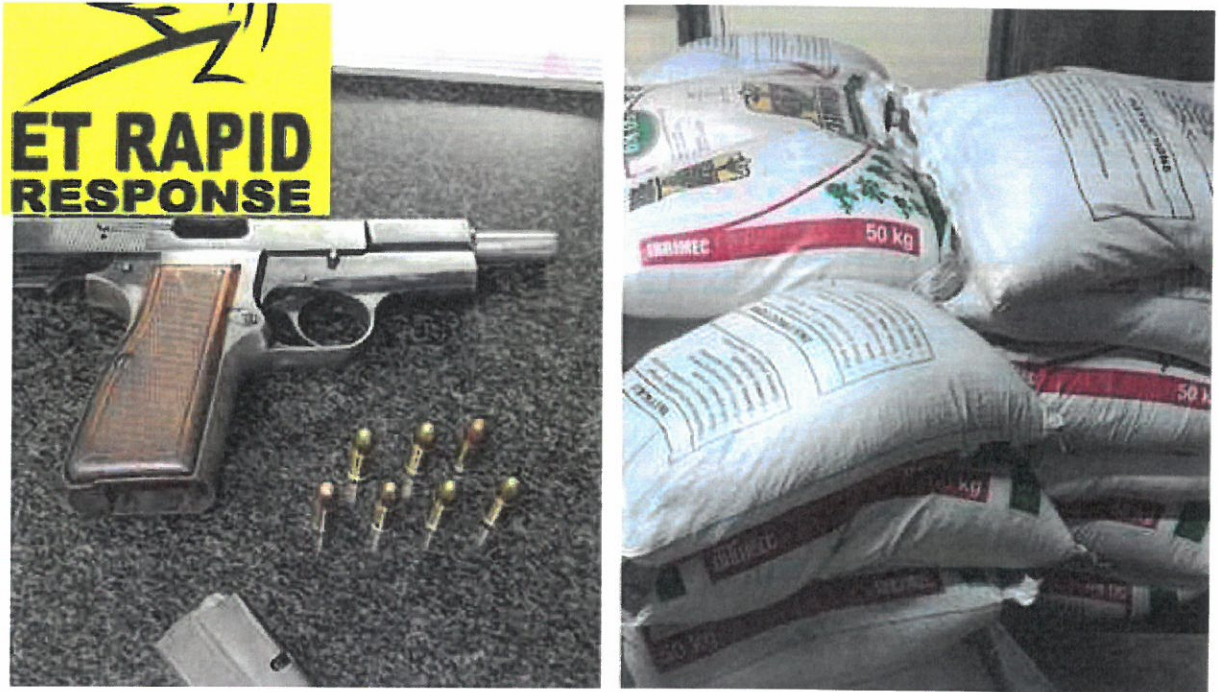
"I would like to urge residents to exercise extreme caution and to follow weather reports so that they can stay updated on the conditions in the area," Sithole-Moloi said.

DARD said more than eight communities were affected, as well as the department's research station.

The department added that the visit will include the monitoring of affected farmers and those who were left destitute by the ordeal.

Daily News

<https://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/kwazulu-natal/three-arrested-for-allegedly-stealing-35-bags-of-fertiliser-from-the-department-of-agriculture-in-kzn-2f05abff-af07-4b8d-a4a3-77d3290b0113>



Police recovered a firearm with seven rounds of ammunition and 35 bags of fertiliser. Picture: ET Rapid Response

Published Feb 6, 2022

DURBAN - Three people were arrested for the theft of 35 bags of fertiliser stolen from Department of Agriculture offices in Umbumbulu, south of Durban.

ET Rapid Response managing director Tony Lokker said various units including the Umkomaas SAPS Task Team, Umzinto SAPS K9, ET Rapid Response, Amanzimtoti CCPO and Magma Security were involved in the arrest.

Lokker said on Tuesday, the Umkomaas SAPS Task Team had received information on a white truck transporting fertiliser suspected to have been stolen.

He said the truck was intercepted in Umkomaas.

“Upon searching the driver of the truck a 9mm pistol with ammunition was found in his possession,” Lokker said.

“Upon checking the truck thirty five bags of fertiliser were found.

“The firearm was established as stolen for a 2003 case, and it was also established that the fertiliser was taken from the Department of Agriculture offices at Umbumbulu,” Lokker said.

He said three suspects were arrested and charged accordingly

Police spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Nqobile Gwala said on Tuesday at 8.45pm, Umkomaas SAPS stopped a truck on the N2 after receiving information that there was a vehicle transporting stolen fertiliser.

“A 57-year-old man was arrested after he was found in possession of a stolen 9mm pistol with seven rounds of ammunition,” Gwala said.

“Two other men (29 and 38), who are foreign nationals suspected to be in the country illegally, were also arrested.”

Gwala confirmed that in the truck, police found 35 bags of fertiliser suspected to have been stolen from Umbumbulu.

“The suspects are facing charges for being in possession of suspected stolen property, unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition as well as for being in the country illegally,” she said.

The suspects appeared in court on February 2, 2022.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development issued a statement informing about an official they had suspended for transporting people to a political campaign. It was also alleged that the official stole fertiliser, seeds and farming implements – earmarked to support the community – for political campaigning.

The incident coincided with the local government by-elections taking place in KZN on Wednesday.

Daily News

<https://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/kwazulu-natal/kzn-dard-official-suspended-for-taking-people-to-a-political-rally-in-a-state-vehicle-ca7087ab-8f61-4a8c-a7b6-ebdf9021c3e3>

KZN DARD official suspended for taking people to a political rally in a state vehicle



DURBAN - A KwaZulu-Natal department of agriculture and rural development official has been suspended for transporting people to a political campaign.

It is also alleged that the official stole fertiliser, seeds and farming implements – earmarked to support the community – for political campaigning.

The incident coincides with the local government by-elections taking place in KZN on Wednesday.

The vacancies in three of the four wards that are being contested were created as a result of the death of councillors. Only one vacancy, in Okhahlamba, was as a result of the resignation of an elected councillor.

On Wednesday, the department released a media statement, saying it acted quickly by suspending an agriculture adviser for serious misconduct after he was allegedly caught transporting voters during political by-elections in Bergville, in the Okhahlamba District.

MEC Bongwiwe Sithole-Moloi said due to the seriousness and gravity of the allegations, and in order to ensure that the investigation proceeds unhindered, the official was placed on precautionary suspension until the finalisation of the investigation.

The MEC expressed concern and instructed that the department should act within the ambit of the law and apply all public service regulations to ensure that the official faced the full might of the law.

“We trust our officials to deliver services to our people, what this official did is very wrong because as a government we are putting serious effort to fight poverty engulfing our communities. We did not expect our officials to use our state vehicles for political campaigning. This cannot be correct, as there are people who are awaiting assistance and information from the agricultural advisor who has decided to be a politician,” Sithole-Moloi said.

“As the MEC for this department, I strongly condemn what this official did and we are investigating the matter. The evidence we have received so far was enough for us to put him on precautionary suspension.”

Sithole-Moloi also said she hoped no political party would ever condone such incidents, because it counteracted what they had always been preaching as the government to fight the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

“Officials are not politicians but civil servants, they are entrusted with delivering services to our people. They must leave politics to politicians and continue to do their work which they have applied for through the Z83 system,” MEC Sithole-Moloi said.

She also encouraged the community to report government officials who are abusing state resources.

“These resources are meant to help the government to fight poverty and help our people who are eager to venture into the farming sector, not for political campaigning.

“I am so disappointed by this act, with a hope that the department will ensure that this will never happen again,” Sithole-Moloi said.

Daily News