



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AMAJUBA FARMERS GET BOOST: BRAHMAN BULLS TO IMPROVE CATTLE, PROFITS

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KwaZulu-Natal's livestock programme delivers new bulls to address poor genetics, empowering farmers for market success and job creation



Partnerships for progress: KwaZulu-Natal MEC's Super Zuma and Peggy Nkonyeni collaborate to empower Amajuba farmers through improved livestock genetics and market access.

Livestock farmers in Amajuba are set for a major boost thanks to a new initiative by the KwaZulu-Natal department of agriculture and rural development. The department delivered Brahman bulls to the region on Monday as part of its ongoing programme to improve cattle genetics and increase profitability.

The initiative stemmed from concerns raised by local farmers about the poor condition of their cattle, attributed to poor genetics. Following a visit to Osizweni, near Newcastle, in late January, MEC Super Zuma returned early February to address these concerns directly. During his visit, he engaged with farmers and witnessed first-hand the challenges they faced.

Foundation for commercialisation

“With our livestock improvement programmes we want to raise commercial farmers,” said Zuma. “We have already struck several deals with industry leaders which will see our farmers soar, making enough profit to sustain their families. We want to create businessmen and women through agriculture who will in turn create job opportunities.”



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To address these concerns, Zuma, joined by finance MEC Peggy Nkonyeni, delivered Brahman bulls to the region. Nkonyeni, who was present to gather input for the 2024 provincial budget, commended the department's work and the positive impact it has on farmers, particularly women.

"We visited a number of projects within Osizweni and we are proud of the work being done by [the department] and MEC Zuma. These programmes are improving the lives of farmers and I can attest that the department is doing what it had promised to do for all farmers and our women are the most beneficiaries," said Nkonyeni.

Improving quality of cattle herd

Zuma emphasised the importance of improving cattle quality for local farmers to compete effectively in the market. He highlighted partnerships with industry leaders that will empower farmers to make significant profits and create job opportunities.

Sibongile Nkosi, representing the Amajuba District Livestock Association, expressed excitement about the initiative. She explained that the bulls addressed a longstanding issue and outlined her role in monitoring and ensuring farmers adhere to the breeding plan.

"We are excited, one of the main issues was that we could not sell our cattle at the right price because of their current condition. Farmers now have an opportunity to make profit," said Nkosi.

The Brahman bulls will be distributed to farmers in Dannhauser, Newcastle, and Emadlangeni. This initiative is expected to significantly improve the quality of cattle in the region, leading to increased profits for farmers and a stronger agricultural sector overall.