



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**INKULUMO KANGQONGQOSHE WEZOLIMO NOKUTHUTHUKISWA
KWEZINDAWO ZASEMAKHAYA UNKK BONGIWE SITHOLE-MOLOI KWI
LIVESTOCK ROADSHOW E- OWEN SITHOLE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
KA WARD 6 KUMASIPALA WASE MFOLOZI**

24 January 2023

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: ACTING HOD, MR ZIBUSISO DLAMINI

MHLANA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, INKOSI MJ UMTHEMTHWA;

CHAIRPERSONS OF LIVESTOCK FARMERS ASSOCIATION FROM DIFFERENT
DISTRICTS;

IZINDUNA KANYE NAMAKHANSELA;

FARMERS PRESENT HERE TO DAY;

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Kuyintokozo ukuthi sihlengane lapha namuhla ngenhloso yokuzoqhamuka namasu okushintsha ibhoni yezolimo ikakhulukazi imfuyo. Ngokwesintu imfuyo iyingxenye yokuphila kwethu ngakho ke kubalulekile ukuthi siyinakekele futhi siyithande.

Programme Director, as we all know that there is no doubt that there is no honour, no dignity and no rights in poverty. But we know that agriculture is able to deal with poverty and restore dignity of our people

This is one of the reasons as the Department we have accelerated the implementation food security programmes aimed at poverty-stricken and vulnerable households that face food insecurity. Furthermore, the Department is currently turning around the sector through the implementation of Provincial Livestock strategy which forms an integral part of the KZN Provincial Growth Strategy.

This forthcoming KZN Provincial Livestock Indaba is will serve as a roadmap to unlock socio-economic development in the sector through the implementation of 7 pillars which are:

- Pillar 1: Comprehensive veterinary technical support
- Pillar 2: Animal identification and anti-theft measures
- Pillar 3: Breeding and selection

- Pillar 4: Marketing and Value Adding
- Pillar 5: Livestock infrastructure Development and agro logistics
- Pillar 6: Veld management and nutrition
- Pillar 7: Applied/Adaptive research

These pillars will be further deliberated on during the KZN Provincial Livestock Indaba. Our aim with these pillars is to bring about a revolution leading to real transformation in the sector and be able to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality that affects mainly youth, women and disabled people.

After the KZN Provincial Livestock Indaba, we will be able to ensure that there's household food security through increased production and productivity, competitiveness, commercialization of livestock especially by smallholder farmers, job creation, inclusive growth and climate smart agriculture and related technological advancement and address farm related crime especially stock theft.

According to our research more than 2.8 million cattle are in the hands of our people in rural areas. This number does not include commercial farmers. Hence we have developed our theme as "Developing Rural Economic Through Livestock". Practical let's talk about what does that means. The selling price of the cattle depending on the size of the cattle it is between R7000 to R14 000. But average selling price of the cattle is R10 000 which means if we were to sell a portion of our cattle, this would amount to billions of rands. Hence it is important to keep our livestock in a good condition.

As the Department, we want to promote comprehensive economic growth, food security and advancement of rural communities. Interventions done so far in this area include crop and livestock production through household projects, community gardens, institutional and farmer support.

We know and understand that as Livestock farmers you are not happy about the status of dams hence we will ensure that infrastructure development will be prioritized. I have instructed the Acting Head of Department to drive change and ensure that livestock becomes a priority.

Ndabezitha, as the department we will also be working closely with Amakhosi to ensure that our people in rural areas get the assistance they need. We want our communities to continue planting and end poverty once and for all. We know that "Agriculture is a fundamental source of national prosperity" let us use agriculture to better the lives of our people in KZN.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for participating in farming industry. I know that sometime we face serious challenges but our hope and prayers keep us going.

In conclusion, the KZN Provincial Livestock Indaba, will be the platform to engage and change whatever we think should be changed and plan for the future ahead. No amount of natural disasters like draught, heavy rains should overcome us after this conference.

Nginyabonga.