



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE MEC OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KWAZULU NATAL, THE HONOURABLE SUPER ZUMA DURING THE CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE EVENT IN MANDENI, WARD 09

23 JUNE 2023

Programme Director; Mr Zibusiso Dlamini;

Chairperson of the ADA Board; Mr TW Mchunu

Board members;

EXCO members;

Our stakeholders;

Farmers present here;

Departmental Officials;

Distinguished guests;

Sanibonani

Namuhlanje sibungaza inyanga yabantu abasha singuMnyango wezolimo kanye Nokuthuthukiswa Kwemiphakathi Yasemakhaya KwaZulu-Natali sesikwazile ukukwakha amathuba emisebenzi angaphezulu kuka 590 ngaphansi kohlelo lokuthuthukisa abantu abasha. Sikhuthaza bonke abantu abasha ukuthi babambe iqhaza ekuthuthukiseni imboni yezolimo.

Njengoba nghlezi ngigcizelela ukuthi ezolimo ziyinxenye yezimpilo zethu. Sidinga ukudla ukuze siphile, kanti futhi sidinga izingubo zokugqoka ezakhiwe ngokotini osuka enhlabathini. Ingakho ke sithi ukuze ezolimo ziqhubeke nokusimama zidinga abantu abasha abayikusasa lalelizwe.

Since my deployment as the MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, I have been travelling districts of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal interacting with our stakeholders the young farmers, on issues relating to their agricultural activities. Indeed, we have carefully listened to our young people and promised them that we shall do our best to respond to their needs.

We have agreed that it is important to address the issues raised by young people which among other matters is to unlock the agricultural potential in our province. We need to direct government resources on many agricultural activities taking place in many of rural communities both subsistence and small-scale farmers. We will increase our tractor assistance and intensify the distribution of seeds and seedling programmes which is a cornerstone for emerging farmers, especially rural women and young people.

Mina ke ngiyathanda ukuqinisekisa ukuthi izinto ziyenzeka. Ngiyitshelile inhloko yomNyango ukuthi kufanele kukhuphuke izinga lokushintsha imboni yezolimo KwaZulu-Natali. Kufanele yonke lemizi ibe nezingadi, kufanele abantu abasha basungule amabhizinisi abo ezolimo. Konke lokhu kufanele sikwenze ngokusizwa uhulumeni. Ingakho ke singeke sikubekezelele ukungasebenzi kwabasenzi bakahulumeni.

Sivakashele iProjekthi ephethwe abantu abasha endaweni yaseNtshanga lapho khona abantu abasha bekhqiza ukudla ukusiza imiphakathi eswele endaweni yaseNtshanga. Kube isibonelo esihle kubantu abasha sokulwa nobubha. Kuleprojekthi bane list yemizi kanye nabantu abaswele abangenakudla kodwa bebededla imshanguzo yezifo ezahlukenene. Lokudla okutshalwe kuleNgadi kuyasabalaliswa kulemizi eswele. Sijabule kakhulu ukubona ukusebenza ngokuzikhandla kwabantu abasha besebenzisana nohulumeni ukulwa nobubha.

Silapha namuhla ukuzokwethula iLunginhlaha Project okuyiprojekthi yomuntu omusha futhi ongewesifazane. iLunginhlaha okuyiprojekthi ekhizisa izinkukhu zamaqanda. Okuhle kulamaprojekthi womabili ukuthi axhaswe uhulumeni ngokusebenzisana nomphakathi. Ilunginhlaha siyixhase ngaphansi kwe entity yethu singumNyango okungu ADA kanti lena yaseNtshanga sisebenzisane nomphakathi ngokuthi sifake irrigation, fencing kanye nembewu ebidingeka. Okusijabulisayo ukuthi namuhla sihambele imisebenzi emibili yabantu abasha. Kukhona iprojekthi eqonde ukulwa nobubha besekuba khona iprojekthi yokuthuthukisa ezohwebo embonini yezolimo.

There is no doubt that the phenomenon of the 4th industrial revolution is upon us. Already, various countries both in Europe and Asia, have long debunked traditional methods of agriculture and introduced what is called Smart Agriculture, which in essence is an embracing of technology to do agriculture, has taken over.

We are presented with the challenge of having to attract the youth to agri-businesses, which are operated through Hi-Tech methods. As the Department, working with our National Department and industry we

want to lead in inspiring the youth and funding emerging agri-value chains that embraces the phenomenon of the smart agriculture.

KwaZulu-Natal has the potential of becoming a leading province on the renewal of agricultural economy and its value chains. Our rural settlements can be a new hub of economic stimulus in the province providing the multiplier effects to employments thereby contributing to KZN GDP. As part of the RASET program, a particular focus on value-adding businesses from primary agriculture using technology are needed. We are hoping that some of you will come forward and start working with us in Smart Agriculture.

Smart Agriculture should be elevated to traditional leadership. The institution of traditional leadership will be able to encourage our people to prioritise agricultural production and supply many countries that have asked for our fresh agricultural products

As the Department, we commit ourselves to working closely with traditional leadership to push back the frontiers of poverty in KwaZulu-Natal. We acknowledge the important role played by amakhosi in our province.

Using Smart Agriculture, we must make sure that the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA) is strengthened to support emerging black commercial farmers and rescue the land reform projects from collapsing. We will also ensure that the Agency and all government agricultural training colleges' work together to continuously improve our strategy and provide support to farmers with training to reduce the skills gap. We will establish five Agri-hubs per year to assist these emerging farmers within our rural communities.

In this regard, Government will roll out the National Young Producers and Entrepreneurs Strategy (YPES), which is a mechanism that promotes the sector amongst youth.

Unemployed graduates will be assisted to gain on-the job experience and grow a pool of new but competent producers who will replace the ageing farmers.

As part of this programme, 340 graduates will be placed initially on farms in the province through active support from commercial farmers and enterprises who are mentors. We are pleased to say that at least 150 commercial farmers have enlisted as mentors and we intend to grow this number.