



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

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### **KZN MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Cyril Xaba today met with milk producers from KZN at the AGM of the KZN Milk Producers Association at Howick in Pietermaritzburg.

KZN is one of the biggest suppliers of milk in the country and according to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Profile of the South African Dairy Market Value Chain, the Province is producing about 24% of the total milk production. In 2012, the dairy industry in the country was said to have over 4000 milk producers and employing over 60 000 farm workers and providing around 40 000 people with indirect jobs within the value chain like the milk processing and milling industry.

These were the very sentiments shared by the MEC that this is a crucial sector within agriculture with wide possibilities of rural development and creation of an agricultural economy. MEC Xaba said "I am aware that a project close to the heart of the MPO is the involvement of small-scale farmers in the school milk program. This program will be taking off this year and there will be a pilot project started in the Harry Gwala district." As part of seeing this as success, the Department has resolved the situation of not having enough small-scale farmers and has identified farmers to ensure the success of the project.

Tom Turner who is the Chairperson of the Milk Producers Association said "This is the first time the Department has an MEC that is so passionate about developing agriculture from primary level to commercial status and this forecasts a great future for the sector in the Province. He is a great asset to agriculture in our Province and the country as a whole".

This was the 77<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Milk Producers Association.



KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, addressing the Milk Producers Organization in Howick



MEC Cyril Xaba with the outgoing KZN Milk Producers Organization President Edsel Hohls

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