



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

### **OSCA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF ACADEMIC SERVICE**

The Owen Sitole College of Agriculture (OSCA) marked its 50<sup>th</sup> year milestone of academic service with a deserving and elaborate festive celebration that took place last month, at its eMpangeni campus.

KZN DARD MEC Mr Themba Mthembu, hosted the two-day long joyous feast which was graced by the college's alumnum from the 80s, dignitaries from MTN, Tongaat Hulett's, representatives from the Government of KwaZulu Natal, the Zulu Royal Household, the Sithole Royal Household and the Mthethwa Royal Household, who are the custodians of the land on which the OSCA stands.

As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> festivities, a plaque commemorating King Owen Sitole was unveiled and MTN was announced as the new sponsor for the college, having funded the refurbishment of the OSCA's library building and fitted it with new computers for research, weather forecasting and to host its digital library.

The college also received another sponsorship from Altech Multimedia, which will provide all the weather forecasting technological gadgets that will be connected to the computers so that all the information needed by the students is at hand.

MTN and Altech Multimedia joins Tongaat Hulett's in a group of companies that support the college.

MEC Mthembu also made a commitment to officially, add "King" as a prefix to the OSCA's name in order to properly honour, SigidisabaThembu Owen Sitole after whom the college is named. He said Sitole was a King of the Sithole clan and the minister in the Government of KwaZulu, however, his kingship title was not included in the name of the college.

The Sithole Royal Household welcomed the pronouncement as a fitting honour for celebrating OSCA's 50 years.

The Zulu and Mthethwa royal families revelled at the fruit of their paternal and maternal roles that they have played since the inception and establishment of the college in 1968.

The vision to establish the college was a brainchild conceived in 1962 by the erstwhile King of the Zulu nation, His Majesty, King Cyprian Bhekuzulu Nyangayezizwe of Solomon, father to the current and reigning King Goodwill Zwelithini.

His Majesty wanted his youth subjects to receive agricultural training within the boundary of Zululand. And the land he earmarked for the development of OSCA was along the Cwaka River, which meanders through the rural village of the same name in kingdom of KwaMthethwa, currently ruled by King Mbusowabathethwa Mthethwa.

Speaking at the event, King Mthethwa, said this declaration by His Majesty, at first, did not sit well with the clan of KwaMthethwa as it entailed relocating his kinsmen from that land. The Mthethwas were also upset that the college was going to be named after Sithole, a King of another clan. The issue, however, was resolved amicably after His Majesty came down to elucidate on the reasons himself.

“This is how the college was established and was named after SigidisabaThembu Owen Sitole, a King and one of the first ministers in the Government of KwaZulu led, at the time, by Prince of Phindangene Royal House, and His Majesty’s envoy, Mangosuthu Buthelezi,” said Mthethwa.



***MEC R.T. Mthembu unveiling the plaque of the Multi-media Centre***



***MEC R.T. Mthembu officially opening the Multi-media Centre***



*OSCA students enjoying their new facilities*



*MEC Mthembu engaging with OSCA students in the new Multi-media Centre*