

450 YOUNG GRADUATES ARE A BEACON OF HOPE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, delivered a keynote address at the graduation ceremony of 450 pupils who were enrolled in a learnership programme, National Rural Youth Service Corp (NARYSEC) coordinated by the Department of Agriculture and Land Reform.

The ceremony took place on the 8th October 2019 in Durban.

The ceremony was attended by the learners who were graduating, their parents and government officials.

Speaking at the event the MEC said the youth must be the answer to challenges of unemployment and poverty currently facing the country.

She advised the graduates that they must think about how they can provide solutions to these problems rather than developing endless expectations that the government will provide jobs for them.



The government jobs are limited and therefore not everyone will be absorbed into the public sector hence she encouraged the youth to start their own businesses and use the skills they have learnt to prosper in the area of their specialisation.

“KwaZulu-Natal is ranked as the third poorest Province after Eastern Cape and Limpopo with a poverty headcount of 68.1%. These are the communities that you, as graduates today, know very well. It is imperative that we put our heads together around this issue of food security as it paints a desperate and petrifying picture,” said Mrs Sithole-Moloi.

The 450 youth received SETA accredited certificates at this graduation and all the graduates were identified from different rural communities of KZN.

They underwent a 12 month skills training at Majuba, Mthashana, uMgungundlovu, Mnambithi, Esayidi and eThekwini TVET Colleges.

The graduates enrolled in the following programmes: Plant Production, Animal Production, Generic Management, Occupationally Directed Education Training and Development Practices, Hospitality Reception, Occupational Health and Safety, Business Administration, Fire and Rescue, Environmental Practice, Rural Disaster Mitigation Services, Transport Operations and Freight Handling.



The programme is facilitated by the National Rural Youth Service Corp (NARYSEC) which is a skills development programme under the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. It targeted the rural youth aged 18 – 25, who have passed Grade 12.

All the participants are mandated to enrol in four compulsory phases which are leadership training, skills development, community service and entrepreneurship.

