

15 November 2022

### **King Cetshwayo District Champion MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi wrapped up the Planting Season Rollout successfully in Nkandla Municipality**

On Tuesday 15 November 2022, the MEC for KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs. Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, successfully rolled-out the multi-planting season programme in Ward 3, Nkandla Local Municipality under King Cetshwayo District.

Earlier last month, MEC Mrs. Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi debuted the Provincial Launch of the Multi-planting season to address food insecurity, unemployment and inequality in KwaZulu-Natal. The Planting Season Programme forms part of Provincial Government's intensified efforts to support farmers, particularly residents of rural communities, in achieving radical agrarian socio-economic transformation.

An estimate of 1000 hectares were planted throughout the District, with 320 hectares cultivated at Asiphumelele project, Ward 3 in Nkandla. Honorable MEC Sithole-Moloi urged the youth to make use of communal land in rural areas for agricultural practices in order to eradicate poverty and unemployment. The MEC also stated that the intention is to assist small-scale farmers to increase their productivity and become more integrated into the Provincial agricultural economy, as well as to improve agriculture in rural communities. The MEC further clarified how farmers will be aided during and after the planting season.

"My children, I urge you to develop an interest in agriculture to combat poverty and reduce the high unemployment rate within our province. I therefore encourage you to accompany your parents when they are working on the fields. Make sure you tag along with the ploughs in order to begin practicing agriculture. It is for this reason we are here in King Cetshwayo District. We have committed ourselves to cultivate 1000 hectares within the District", said MEC Sithole-Moloi.

Through this programme, farmers will be assisted with the supply of production inputs (fertilizer, seed and agro-chemicals), the provision of mechanization services (ploughing, discing, planting and application of agro-chemicals and fertilizer) as well as the assistance with marketing the produce through RASET and other outlets.

Issued by: Communications  
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