



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KZN AGRICULTURE MEC KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA HAS CALLED ON THE DISTRICTS TO REPLICATE THE ILEMBE ENTERPRISE MODEL

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development has commended iLembe District Municipality for establishing an entity called Enterprise iLembe. The entity is mandated to drive economic development and promote trade and investment within the region, catering to, among other sectors, agriculture and tourism. kaMadlopha-Mthethwa addressed delegates of the 6th Urban Agri World Summit held at the Zimbali Estate, organised by Magenta Global, with Enterprise iLembe acting as a strategic local host on 22 October 2025.

The Summit looked at sustainable and innovative ways that will contribute to smart and resilient agriculture, with an emphasis on urban communities adopting techno-savvy methods to plant in their limited spaces. kaMadlopha-Mthethwa delivered a keynote address, noting the sector's vulnerability in light of challenges brought by climate change and the U.S. tariffs: "Urban farming is fast proving to be a game-changer, especially for those maximizing limited spaces through innovative methods such as hydroponics, vertical farming, rooftop gardens and indoor farming."

"While we acknowledge that the majority of people experiencing inadequate food access are in rural areas, it is also true that urban areas also experience food insecurity and as a government, we are committed to leaving no one behind. Therefore, platforms like this are crucial in exposing techno-savvy and alternative ways to cultivate plants. However, urban farming still faces regulatory challenges that may hinder its growth and sustainability, including zoning and land use regulations, permitting and licensing. These challenges can be overcome through collaborative efforts and building relationships with stakeholders."













