



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

13 October 2016

### **MEC Mthembu is attending to the issues regarding disciplinary and drought relief money**

MEC Themba Mthembu has noted media reports today, both in print and electronic platforms, regarding the unresolved matter of the Departmental Chief Financial Officer's case and the reported underspending of drought relief money that was meant to assist farmers.

These matters are huge media reporting today because of the Department's appearance yesterday in a Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA). The matter regarding the suspension of the CFO and other senior employees drew the attention of the MEC on his arrival. It is a matter that is now receiving serious attention by the office of the MEC. Any reckless handling of such matters will not be tolerated and a full response will be shared once the MEC has fully appraised himself on the matter.

Concerning the drought relief under expenditure allegations, the MEC has asked the Department to give account on the matter to all deserving stakeholders. Underspending on farmers' relief programmes cannot be accepted by the Department.

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