



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

11 October 2016

MEC Mthembu is engaged on a wider consultative process for KZN DARD's new direction in Agriculture and Rural Development

MEC Themba Mthembu has started an extensive wide consultative process with various key stakeholders in the province to heighten agricultural activities both in terms of subsistence farming that is beneficial to our poor communities as an overriding important pillar. Food security remains a critical pillar in a province that has a majority of poor households in rural and semi-urban areas.

Part of this consultative process is for making policy reviews that may ensure that various forms of departmental assistance for our people to engage in various forms of agricultural activities using available land to improve the condition of food security and poverty. As we approach the planting season, part of the interventions will include availing seeds, tractors, manures and other inputs.

A strategic programme for a "New generation of black farmers" and agriculturalists with a particular focus on youth and women will be developed as part of the new policy pillar. We need more black commercial farmers and agriculturalists and the starting point is on young people and women.

"We cannot break the racial glass ceiling of agricultural value-chain ownership, management and control unless government take a radical lead to change these patterns in a dynamic and strategic way using policy instruments and resources in its foothold" said MEC Mthembu.

As result of the above, MEC Mthembu has met with youth in agriculture under its organized formation Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) and has met with Women in Agriculture and Rural Development (WARD), consulted with all provincial principals of the TVET Colleges offering agricultural studies for collaborations and usage of agricultural graduates. He has also consulted with the University of KwaZulu-Natal agricultural faculty and agreed on strengthening the current MOU for future research, collaborations and graduates programmes.

The MEC is today consulting with all traditional leaders in the province to establish structural relationships for rural communities' and farming. He will be meeting all District Mayors on the 18th of October 2016 for a working relationship in their areas on agriculture.

End.

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KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Themba Mthembu addressing Amakhosi on Agricultural issues



Amakhosi who attended the meeting held at Coastlands Hotel, Durban



MEC Themba Mthembu addressing Amakhosi on Agricultural issues



Inkosi Mchunu from eMachunwini Umsinga during discussions



From left: KZN DARD Head of Department Dr Sipiwe Mkhize, KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Themba Mthembu and Inkosi Phathisizwe Chiliza during discussions