



agriculture & rural development

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Agriculture and Rural Development
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OFFICE OF THE MEC

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Media Advisory

LAUNCH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-PLANTING SEASON

The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Themba Mthembu, will officially launch the Spring/Summer Multi-Planting Season on the 30th of November 2017.

In previous years, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development had tended to place emphasis on one planting season for agricultural produce in the province, particularly linked to subsistence and small-holder farmers. Simultaneously, farmers have focused on the planting of staple crops such as maize and beans, without diversifying crops to meet the increasing demand for varied fruit and vegetable crops.

With the drop in agricultural households and the increasing number of people living in poverty across the country and the Province as recently reported by StatsSA, the Department has in line with its Food and Nutrition Security Strategy changed focus to promote a multi-season approach which will ensure that all Districts in the Province fully exploit their natural resources by focusing their planting on commodities which prosper in accordance with seasonal weather patterns, soil and suitability of crops. This multi-planting season approach will in future, ensure that households are able to efficiently provide diversified crops which will contribute vastly to food and nutrition security.

“The Department has tended to mobilise production around one planting season (Spring/early Summer) as if planting could not take place during other seasons of the year. The new approach will focus on supporting crop production based on the district potential with an emphasis, among other things, on identification and promotion of multiple planting seasons across commodities and all seasons of the year.

“Through the multiple planting season, the Department will be able to mobilise farmers to plant crops based on the natural resources and the potential of crops in respective districts thus contributing to the implementation of the Food and

Nutrition Security Programme as well as the commercial farming activities,” said Mthembu.

The new multi-planting seasons approach will further ensure small-holder farmers receive education and information on the correct planting times in different seasons so they are able to deliver high quality crops.

Through the multi-planting season programme, the Department seeks to establish organised small-holder farmers who will contribute to the Provincial Radical Agrarian Socio Economic Transformation (RASET) programme, which aims to create a market for small producers within Government departments and public institutions which will uplift local economies.

As part of promoting public, private partnerships (PPP’s) the launch will take place in conjunction with the community of Babanango. The community has through the eMasangweni Amhlophe Partnership Project, funded 70 hectares of fencing while Pannar Seeds (PTY) Ltd has donated white hybrid maize seeds. The Department will assist with both mechanization and additional production inputs. Beneficiaries of these projects are women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The launch will take place at Babanango in the northern KZN on Thursday, 30 November 2017.

The members of the media are invited to attend this occasion.

The event will take place as follows:

Date: 30 November 2017

**Area: Babanango, Nhlengile Area,
Zululand District Municipality, Ward 06**

Time: 09h00

Thank you

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