



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

### Media Statement

Attention all Editors

For Immediate Release  
24 October 2018

After conducting a successful Multi-Planting Season launch at eMfundeni Sports Ground kwaJali at Ugu District yesterday, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Themba Mthembu convened a strategic planning session to conduct annual review of the Department's Strategic Plan.

This Strategic Planning Review session provides the Department with an opportunity to assess progress made against the strategic goals and objectives as set out in the 5-year Strategic Plan. 2019/2020 is the last financial year of this Medium Term of government.

The Strategic Planning Review Session was attended by top management of the Department, which includes all MANCO and EXCO members, Senior officials from the Department's two entities Mjindi Farming and Agricultural Development Agency (ADA), National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Department of Land Reform and Rural Development.

While addressing officials, MEC Mthembu stressed the importance of launching the Agricultural Advisory Body and the Agricultural Master Plan which will provide a framework and serve as a foundation for Department's operations for the next five years.

“Structurally when you look at our budget it doesn't give us room to maneuver to do any structural changes. We need to come up with a plan to restore our budget in order to unlock trapped funds in order to fulfil our mandate as the Department. We must also interrogate how can we ensure that the turnaround element of the strategy also focuses on supply chain management, model for the planting season and the budget architecture. The strategy that we must formulate in the next three days must heavily carry an element of a turnaround for the Department.”

MEC Mthembu acknowledged that turning the Department around is a mammoth task. “In coming up with a turnaround strategy we need to question ourselves why have all the previous strategies failed and what we need to do as the Department to correct this.”

For the next three days, the Department will conduct a proper assessment of its Strategic Plan and to kick-start with preparations that will inform the new Strategic Plan covering the upcoming 2020/2025 Medium Term Strategic Framework. This process will also outline key policy and strategic interventions that the Department will implement to ensure the growth of the agricultural sector in KwaZulu-Natal.

ENDS

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN KWAZULU NATAL

For more information, contact Media Liaison Officer, Phathisa Mfuyo on 076 411 1728



**MEC Themba Mthembu**