



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

TO ALL MEDIA

TUESDAY, 26 February, 2019

MEC THEMBA MTHEMBU WELCOMES THE CALL BY HIS MAJESTY FOR AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Themba Mthembu has welcomed the call by His Majesty, Isilo Samabandla for Agriculture to be used to better the lives of people in KwaZulu-Natal, especially in rural areas. His Majesty Isilo Samabandla gave his address during the official opening of the Provincial Legislature in Pietermaritzburg on 26 February 2019.

MEC Mthembu concurs with His Majesty's assertion that "there is no honour, no dignity and no rights in poverty. But this one thing, agriculture can end poverty completely."

That is why the Department has moved a sense of urgency to implement the comprehensive food security programme aimed at poverty-stricken and vulnerable households that face food insecurity. This programme is complemented by a suite of targeted interventions for farmer support and development which includes funding, mentorship and training, all intended to support small-holder producers to start and manage viable and sustainable agricultural enterprises with potential to create jobs and grow the economy.

Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently turning around the sector through the Agricultural Master Plan which will form an integral part of the KZN Provincial Growth Strategy going forward.

MEC Mthembu says "The Agricultural Master Plan will serve as a roadmap to unlock socio-economic development in the sector through specific strategic programmes. These programmes should bring about a revolution leading to real transformation in the sector and be able to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality that affects mainly youth, women and disabled people."

Through the Master Plan, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be able to ensure that there's household food security through increased production and productivity, competitiveness, commercialisation of agricultural enterprises

especially by small-holder farmers, job creation, inclusive growth and a launch pad for transformation within the agricultural sector, climate smart agriculture, related technological advancement and addressing of farm related crimes especially stock theft.

“After the successful launch during the Agricultural Summit last year, the Master Plan will now be taken to each District and Ward of KZN where it will be customised according to the agricultural needs of that area,” says MEC Mthembu. With this, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will fulfil His Majesty’s prophecy of turning KZN into a “Garden of Eden”.

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