



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KZN Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Private Bag X9059, Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Enquiries: Mack Makhathini
Tel: 033-3438271 or 071-360 9017

Fax: 033-343 8255
Toll-Free: 0800 000 996
Email: lelethu.manentsa@kzndard.gov.za

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA

ISSUED BY KZNDARD

13-08-2019

HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS CALLED ON PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE TO EXPEDITE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

King Goodwill Zwelithini has urged the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to fast-track the provision of water services for irrigation purposes in order to enhance agricultural work of rural communal subsistence farmers who often experience poor harvests due to a lack of adequate water resources.

His Majesty said this during the official visit by the KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, at Linduzulu Royal Palace in KwaNongoma yesterday, where the MEC outlined the objectives of the budget that was tabled in the KZN Legislature on July 30.

During this visit, the King shared with the MEC the urgent need to assist communities with irrigation services, especially those that rely on farming for survival and hard hit by the recent drought.

This, the King said should be done by scooping of dams and drilling of boreholes amongst others in order to preserve and provide clean water for livestock and crop irrigation.

In order to address this and other challenges the MEC outlined Departmental programmes that are aimed at eradicating water shortages for agricultural purposes.

“To ensure sustainable rural development, Rural Socio-Economic Strategy will be developed in the current financial year through a consultative

approach with stakeholders, strategic partners, relevant departments, district and local municipalities,” said MEC Sithole-Moloi.

This Strategy will ensure co-ordination, integration and implementation of all programmes within the national, provincial and local sphere that will embrace a strong and economically viable rural economy.

This process will outline the Department’s vision of advancing comprehensive rural development in KZN that is centred on viable livelihoods and expanding economic opportunities for rural citizens for sustained development.

However, the MEC stated that there are already irrigation schemes that have been finalized in Hlathikhulu, Tugela, Indumo and Insuze.

This year’s total Departmental budget tabled by the MEC amounts to R2.4 billion.

Ends.

**For more information please contact Media Liaison Officer
Mack Makhathini on 071 360 9017
mack.makhathini@gmail.com;
Mthobisi.makhathini@kzndard.gov.za**