



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



To all media houses

15 October 2020

MEC SITHOLE-MOLOI SADDENED BY THE PREMATURE DEATH OF DR. VUYO MAHLATI

I have learnt with shock, the news of the passing away of Dr. Vuyo Mahlati, the President of African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA).

Mahlati was instrumental in the launch of AFASA's transformation barometer, a special tool to measure the state of transformation in the country's agriculture sector to help inform government and business on the steps required to accelerate change and ensure more black farmers actively participate.

Just last year, Mahlati served as the chairperson for President Cyril Ramaphosa's land reform and agriculture advisory panel.

Mahlati would often advise that it was in the interest of the country that we deracialize the economy as well as stimulate the economy and all the other challenges including having people with disabilities actively participating in the mainstream economy.

The youth focus was also an imperative for her because youth unemployment is a crisis.

She was also passionate about the youth being allowed to play an active role in the agricultural sector.

The industry, and in particular farmers, organized labour and strategists, play a critical role in shaping discourse and strengthening the country's economy and democracy.

May treasured memories be the comfort to the family.

I offer you my thoughts, prayers and well wishes during this period.

For more information, kindly contact Media Liaison Officer, Mr Mack Makhathini on 076 965 5870