



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

17 AUGUST 2021

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: Editors, News Editors and PR Wires

MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT VISITS THRIVING WOMEN OWNED FARMS IN MOOI RIVER

As part of the Women's Month celebrations, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, will be visiting thriving women-owned farms in Mooi River to celebrate women who are excelling in agriculture amid challenging conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The farms that will be visited are Gugulethu Farm and Izibuke Project Farm in Mooi Mpofana which are involved in crop and poultry production.

These farms form part of the 896 farms measuring 700 000 hectares of underutilised or vacant State land throughout the country announced by Minister Thoko Didiza to be allocated through an application process. The two farms are land that was claimed under the government Land Reform programme and they were counted amongst the farms that were lying fallow and underutilised. To date, the farms are now back to full production and creating permanent and seasonal employment opportunities. Although this might come across as a huge milestone, the department is concerned about the significant number of farms lying fallow in KwaZulu-Natal which would need about R5,5 Billion in government investment to get back to a productive state. Departmental assessments and projections show that the effect of the unproductive farms in the province has a dire effect on food insecurity, thus leading to wide-spread poverty and an increase in food prices.

The Department is currently undergoing a process of resuscitating farms that are lying fallow, underutilised and unproductive throughout the Province. The Women's Month celebrations will be focusing on women who are playing a significant role in ensuring food security and curbing poverty in rural and semi-urban areas.

#PHEZUKOMKHONO

The visit will coincide with a media tour which is aimed at showcasing the sterling work that is done by women in the sector and to celebrate them as part of Women's Month festivities.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover this event.

The visit will take place as follows:

Date: Thursday, 19 August 2021

Venue: Gugulethu Farm, Mooi Mpofana Municipality

Time: 11h00

Ends

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For more information, please contact:

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