To all media houses

24 June 2021

MEC SITHOLE-MOLOI TO UNVEIL INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND REVIVE THE AGING KZN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

For the past 13 years, the agricultural sector in KwaZulu-Natal has been suffering a profuse brain drain, with many skilled farmers aging, retiring and leaving the industry, while the numbers of unemployed youth, especially agricultural graduates, has been doubling in the province.

The recent national unemployment rate of 46.3% indicated by Stats SA in the first quarter of 2021 has been the highest jobless quantity affecting youth aged 15 to 34 since 2008, with 9.3% of these young people being unemployed university graduates.

However, with the year 2021 focusing on the youth under the theme: "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", KZN DARD has been making vital strides in ensuring that all youth, especially unemployed agricultural graduates, populate the sector with young, fresh and innovative minds.

Following the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, launched in March 2020, KZN DARD is now ready to roll out its innovative thinking and strong partnerships programmes aimed at taking the province's youth out of the unemployment doldrums into leaders that bring the desired agrarian revolution in the sector.

It is, therefore, for this reason that KZNDARD MEC, Mrs. Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, cordially invites you to the launch of the Unemployed Agricultural Graduates Programme (UAGP) as a measure to create opportunities, enhance skills development, support young entrepreneurs and enable the their full participation in the economy.

This engagement will take place as follows:

Venue: Durnacol Sports Complex, Dannhauser, Amajuba District
Time: 10:00 am
Date: Friday, 25 June 2021

For more information, kindly contact Media Liaison Officer, Mr. Mack Makhathini on 076 965 5870/ A/HoC Mr. Vusi Zuma on 082 419 2887