



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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FIGHTING POVERTY IS THE PRIORITY OF KZN GOVERNMENT

The KwaZulu-Natal government has declared war against the widespread poverty engulfing the Province. The state of poverty-stricken households and communities particularly those in rural areas, were the primary focus of the provincial leadership during the launch of the Provincial Planting Season. KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli said the provincial Department of Agriculture under the leadership of the MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, will bring forth an agricultural revolution and ensure that the whole province becomes green. "We are envisioning a green province with crops and vegetables. The farms that are lying fallow and under-utilized must be brought back to full operation. "Ntuli was addressing thousands of people in the uMzinyathi District gathered at uMsinga's Solomon Linda Sportsfield on Tuesday, 15 October 2024.

Further etching the Premiers words, MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa echoed that the success of the Multi-planting Season will be measured by the visibility of greenery in KwaZulu-Natal. "If we don't see green vegetables and crops along our highways, we would have failed the people of the province" said MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

Premier Ntuli and MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa introduced new farming techniques to boost and enhance food security in the province. The Premier further emphasised the importance of Extension Officers working hand-in-hand with communities to enable a better flow of agricultural activities.

"Extension and Veterinary Services need to work hand-in-hand with our communities so that they enhance primary animal healthcare, animal productivity and animal husbandry" said Ntuli.

Schools in Masinga and surrounding areas were also prioritised and were the beneficiaries of 1000 seed packs including maize, beans and vegetables.

50 hectares of land was cultivated under the Mechanisation Programme for beneficiary Gwamanda farming. This was coupled with the distribution of 150 bags of 50kg base fertilizer and 75 bags of 50kg top dressing fertilizer.

The Premier has also called on communal cattle farmers to ensure their cattle does not roam around the streets but be kept on pasturelands, "The cattle that roam around our communities discourage our people from planting because their produce is eaten



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by these cows and other livestock. Let's ensure that the cattle stay in the pasturelands."

Scientific evidence that emanated from the Human Sciences Research Council stipulated that about 17 percent of the province's households suffer from food insecurity while 4.3 percent suffer from food hunger.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa said her Department is using evidence-based research outcomes to bring about community development and farmer support. "The report revealed that there are people in KwaZulu-Natal who go to bed without any food in their stomachs, that's we have decided to focus mainly with those communities more especially in uMzinyathi, Zululand and Harry Gwala. According to the evidence based research outcomes, these Districts were found to have a vast amount of land, yet it is not properly used for planting purposes. Hence, the multi-planting season this year focused on the poorest of the poor. A clarion call is made for the farming communities to begin planting in earnest," said KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

Issued by KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development