



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

14 May 2024

FROM BOOK TO GROUND - KZN DARD WELCOMES TOP ACHIEVERS FROM ITS COLLEGES OF AGRICULTURE INTO THE UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES PROGRAMME

Twenty top achievers from the Cedara and Owen Sithole Colleges of Agriculture have officially been handed their letters of appointment and have signed two-year contracts under the Unemployed Agriculture Graduates Youth Programme.

The welcoming ceremony, hosted by the MEC for Agriculture & Rural Development, Mr. Super Zuma, took place on Tuesday, 13 May 2024 in the Centenary Hall at Cedara.

The graduates programme is designed to provide unemployed agricultural graduates with opportunities to gain on the job experience, to bridge the gap of ageing producers and to enhance employability of young agriculturalists.

The Department has partnered with various farmers across the province and the selected students will be placed with the relevant small-holder or commercial farmer to be mentored in the areas of production, agro-processing, farm management, governance, business and entrepreneurship.

Since 2019, almost 1000 graduates have benefitted from the Programme.

MEC Super Zuma encouraged the new employees to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

“Through this programme, you will work alongside experienced farmers and professionals. You will also contribute to food security that makes a real impact in our communities. You will be exposed to innovative farming methods and sustainable practices that are shaping the future of agriculture. As graduates, you bring fresh perspectives, new ideas and enthusiasm that is contagious. Agriculture is a vital part of our province's economy and our people's well-being. Your work will have a direct impact on the lives of our citizens and we are confident that you will make a positive difference,” said MEC Zuma.

Karabo Khumalo, a top achiever from the Cedara College of Agriculture said the opportunity would benefit her family who had sacrificed by providing invaluable support to ensure she excelled while studying.

“I am grateful to MEC Zuma for handpicking us to be part of this unique programme. This is our time to show our gratitude to our families and to be part of the solution to food security in the province,” she said.

The induction process is set to commence this week.

----- Ends -----



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

For media inquiries, please contact:

Lethu Nxumalo, Media Liaison Officer, 073 031 9293/ 076 821 6390

Vusi Zuma, Head of Communications, 082 419 2887