



## **KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **OVER 1 000 STAND TO GAIN NEW SKILLS WHILE AMAKHOSI PARTNERS WITH KZN DARD TO UPLIFT RURAL ECONOMIES THROUGH LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT**

22 May 2024

Contracts have been signed and tools of trade have been handed to 1120 learners from eThekweni and uMkhanyakude District who will be taking part in a youth skills development programme commencing at the beginning of June.

This Agricultural Programme will equip learners with business skills, which will promote the establishment of youth-owned enterprises.

On 22 May 2024, the MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development (KZN DARD), Mr. Super Zuma, welcomed learners into the programme which is run in partnership with the Department's entity, the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA).

Those who have been selected to be part of the Programme will acquire skills in Water and Wastewater Treatment, Plant and Animal Production, Nature Conservation as well as in New Venture Creation. The duration of the programmes will be between 3 to 12 months and learners will receive a monthly stipend.

Making a step towards the growth of rural economies, the Department handed bulls to 10 traditional leaders within uMkhanyakude. These will assist in the genetic improvement of rural herds, enabling farmers an opportunity to penetrate the market with quality meat.

MEC Zuma said the provincial government was resolute on the advancement of the provincial agricultural sector. He said DARD had already made great strides and would continue to improve the quality of life and economic wellbeing of farmers in the rural areas.

"We welcome the young blood into the programme and we are certain that they will bring innovative ideas that will continue to ensure food security while creating profitable sustainable businesses. We are also grateful to traditional leadership in KZN for working with us towards realizing our vision of establishing agricultural firms. This is the only way that we can return the economy into the rightful hands," said MEC Zuma.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Lethu Nxumalo, Media Liaison Officer, 073 031 9293

Vusi Zuma, Head of Communications, 082 419 288