



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TAKES ZERO TOLERANCE ON THEFT AND CORRUPTION

Following a move underscoring the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's commitment to rooting out criminal elements even within its own ranks, two suspected thieves were arrested for stealing a tractor yesterday, 27 March 2025. One of the suspects, a departmental official based at Inkosi Owen Sithole College of Agriculture, was allegedly involved in the theft. It is alleged that two tractors were stolen, with the official allegedly coordinating the movement of the tractors from their original location in Mbonambi area under uMfolozi Local Municipality.

The quick thinking of the departmental senior official within the King Cetshwayo district, who reported the matter to the traffic police of uMfolozi Local Municipality, resulted in the interception of the tractor in the Sokhulu area. The tractor was driven by a male person suspected to be the accomplice of the departmental official.

Reacting to the arrest, the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, stated that the move proved the department's commitment to tackling any form of criminality, even amongst its own ranks: "We are committed to rooting out rotten elements within our ranks.

Wrongdoers must face the consequences of their actions and face the full might of the law. We thank our senior official in the King Cetshwayo District, who worked with the police to apprehend the suspects."

The official is currently being detained and is expected to appear in court soon for theft.

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