



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA URGES AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS TO BE INNOVATIVE IN ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN THE SECTOR

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Hon. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa officiated the opening of Cedara College of Agriculture as she welcomed first-year students for the 2025 academic year.

Proceedings were overseen by the Hon. MEC along with the senior hierarchy of the Department and Institution, who extended their warm welcomes to all students.

With Cedara being one of the most experienced institutions in our province, it is popularly known for producing esteemed scholars and field experts over the years.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa urged students to excel and ensure completion of their studies in record time. Addressing over 40 learners accompanied by their parents, MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa announced that an estimate of R2.5 million has been allocated for student bursaries. She further encouraged students to acquire skills that will enable them to transform the sector. "I urge you, as students and future leaders, to not only acquire knowledge but also provide solutions to issues such as food insecurity, unemployment and inequality.

Ensure you pursue your qualification while equipping yourselves with the necessary skills to navigate today's complexities. "Upon completion of your studies, you should be empowered to address global challenges such as climate change, pest and disease spread and water scarcity. As a Department, we offer Learnerships and Internship programs for young people and graduates, providing hands-on experience in various agricultural fields, including livestock production, crop production, and agricultural business management.

We have implemented programs targeting unemployed agricultural graduates, offering on-farm placements, mentorship and entrepreneurial training to enhance employability within the agricultural sector," concluded KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

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