



Nkandla Gets New Agriculture Offices to Boost Local Farming

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By Phumzile Mkhungo | Newz South Africa

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KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli, together with MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa and MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure Martin Meyer, officially hand over the new Department of Agriculture and Rural Development offices in Nkandla. Photo By Phumzile Mkhungo | Newz South Africa.

The people of Nkandla received a major boost on Friday as KwaZulu-Natal Premier Hon. Thamsanqa Ntuli officially unveiled and handed over the new Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) offices, bringing vital government services closer to local farmers and rural communities.



The new facility, constructed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, is expected to transform the way emerging, communal and commercial farmers access agricultural support in the area.



Joining the Premier at the official handover were MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Hon. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa and MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure Hon. Martin Meyer, who described the project as an important investment in rural development and food security.

For many years, farmers in Nkandla have had to travel long distances to access agricultural extension services, veterinary support, farming advice and government programmes. The new offices are expected to eliminate these challenges by placing essential services within easy reach of communities.

Speaking during the handover, Premier Ntuli said bringing government services closer to the people remains a key priority of the provincial government. He said the offices would strengthen food security, support local farmers and encourage more residents, particularly young people, to participate in agriculture.

“We want to see this area becoming greener, more productive and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture. These offices will ensure that our farmers receive the support they need to improve production and contribute to the local economy,” the Premier said.



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The Premier added that agriculture remains one of the province's key economic sectors and has the potential to create jobs, reduce poverty and improve household food security, particularly in rural communities.

MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa said the department is committed to ensuring farmers receive continuous support through agricultural extension officers, technical advice, training programmes and access to government initiatives designed to improve productivity.



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She encouraged local farmers to make full use of the new offices and work closely with departmental officials to improve crop production, livestock farming and agricultural sustainability.

MEC Martin Meyer said the completion of the project demonstrates government's commitment to delivering quality infrastructure that improves the lives of citizens.

He said infrastructure is more than constructing buildings it is about creating facilities that allow government departments to provide efficient services and stimulate economic development in rural areas.



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The modern offices are expected to serve hundreds of farmers across the Nkandla Local Municipality, improving access to agricultural information, veterinary services, farming inputs and development programmes.

The opening also aligns with the provincial government's broader strategy to strengthen the agricultural sector, improve food production and support emerging farmers as part of efforts to grow the rural economy.

Community members welcomed the new offices, saying they would reduce travelling costs and make it easier to engage with agricultural officials. The facility is also expected to improve communication between government and farming communities while accelerating service delivery.

The handover marks another milestone in KwaZulu-Natal's drive to improve rural infrastructure, expand agricultural opportunities and ensure that farming continues to play a central role in creating jobs, fighting hunger and building resilient rural communities.