



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

MEDIA STATEMENT

KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, seeks for solutions and closure in the Hluhluwe cattle death saga

MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, met with the Commercial and Communal farmers in Hluhluwe on 25 May 2015 subsequent to meeting the Communal farmers the week before. This was to find a lasting solution to the tension that has been building up between the two farming structures since the death of 27 cattle belonging to the communal farmers last week. It was alleged that the cattle deaths were due to water poisoning by a local commercial farmer.

During the meeting with the commercial farmers, it came to the fore that the main challenge was the drought affecting the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The Province has been experiencing the worst drought in five years, leading to a lot of overgrazing and the scarcity of water in the communal areas. This led to the communal farmers to allegedly cross over to the commercial farmer areas for better grazing land and sufficient water sources.

Speaking with the commercial farmers, MEC Xaba said "We are here to find immediate and long term solutions to this debacle, dealing with the symptoms alone is not sufficient but let's deal with the core of the problem."

MEC Xaba also pledged with the commercial farmers to sympathise with the families that have been affected and as a "gesture of goodwill" to contribute whatever they could as to promote a spirit of good neighborliness in the area.

MEC Cyril Xaba agreed to address the communal farmers on Sunday, 31 May 2015 after they pleaded to meet with him on a separate date to finalise steps to be taken towards assisting them through this rough period.

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