



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

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### **PRESS RELEASE/ ALERT**

### **TO ALL MEDIA**

### **ISSUED BY KZNDARD**

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### **ALLEGATIONS AGAINST KZN FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD WINNER, MS HLENGIWE MJIYAKHO OF UKWANDA FARM**

The KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development started the process of adjudication for the Female Entrepreneur Awards in June this year. Regarding the allegations against Ms Mjiyako, our preliminary investigation shows that they happened in the period prior to August 2014.

We understand that this was a period when officials in the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform were under investigation for the purchases of farms, one of which was Ukwanda Farm. During that period, farms were put under curatorship and were under investigation by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU). Ukwanda Farm was eventually cleared of all allegations by the court.

The KZN Female Entrepreneur Awards program follows an adjudication process set by the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). Which include the following:

**Top Entrepreneur in the Sector: Commercial:** The enterprise must demonstrate the actual activities which have been in progress for at least a period of two years. The group/individual should have defined membership and roles within a properly constituted and registered entity. The enterprise **must be registered in the entrant's name; in the event of the enterprise/entity including men, women must be in the majority by 80% and they must be involved in the ownership, management and decision-making aspects of the entity.**

Demonstrate the existence of contract agreements and transactions with local and national businesses, markets and a good sense of record/bookkeeping.

Produce and sell to local and national markets to enhance economic growth and manage and organize storage facility for produce.

Demonstrate a degree of innovation and creativity in improving farming methods and deliver a consistent supply of products of high quality and quantity attractive to consumers through adherence to phytosanitary and health requirements.

Illustrate commitment and compliance to care for, and ensure the sustainability of natural resources, including understanding of adaptation and mitigation to climate change, as well as demonstrate responsible use of production inputs.

Create and retain permanent jobs in the enterprise and add value to communities. (The enterprise/entity must demonstrate that people employed within the enterprise have legal status to live and work in the country).

Demonstrate contribution to employee well-being and capacity development.

Adhere to industry standards and regulations (e.g. UIF, occupational health and safety, leave records, pay slips and employment contracts).

Demonstrate an understanding of improved farming methods, including IKS.

The participation and exposure in the entity of 10% youth and 2% people with disabilities is compulsory.

A team of adjudicators made up of representatives from different departments as well as farmer organizations visited Ukwanda Farm in July 2015. Profiling and video-footage were compiled to submit to DAFF. A total of 90 nominees were received and 44 were shortlisted and scored. According to the Criteria, Ukwanda Farm, ticked all the boxes in the category for Top Entrepreneur in the Commercial Sector. This qualified her to be an entrant in the National Awards, which she won in the same category.

The KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is committed to sound and ethical farming practices, which includes good animal husbandry. Given the concerns raised recently we will continue monitoring the situation at Ukwanda and other farms.

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