



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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LAUNCH OF THE SOYA BEAN PROJECT IN UMZIMKHULU

The dreams of many communal farmers in uMzimkhulu came true on 05 November 2015. The KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in partnership with the Masisizane Fund, an initiative by Old Mutual, saw the first Public Private Partnership which seeks to achieve the growing and production of soya beans in the area of uMzimkhulu in the Harry Gwala Region.

This PPP came about when the Department and Masisizane Fund both identified potential lands for the production of Soya bean in the region after-which, a Memorandum of Understanding was crafted between the two parties where both would meet each other on a 50:50 basis.

Masisizane Fund has projected that it would be injecting an amount of up to R26 million for the planting and production of commodity in the area. KZNDARD will be allocating 300 tractors, vouchers for implements and running costs, vouchers for seeds, business monitoring and extension services.

Through this PPP, the Harry Gwala region will see 144 communal estates actively participating in growing soya beans on land covering an area of over 23 000Ha for production and agro-processing.

MEC Xaba through the new Departmental strategy of Agrarian Reform and Transformation, highlighted the need to make agriculture a business and a science. He said "I want to thank the Masisizane/Old Mutual Fund for seeing the potential in this area and joining in this partnership. We have a 50/50 partnership and together we will be investing over R26 million to put a total area of about 1500 hectares under production in the Umzimkhulu area."

Simpiwe Somdyala, CEO of the Masisizane Fund, said the project provides some useful lessons on stimulating rural economic development: "The development of viable agri-clusters is the cornerstone of Masisizane's approach to agriculture. When working together as a cluster, small-scale farmers can benefit from economies of scale, and ultimately make a positive impact on their communities" he said.

In recent reports, it was highlighted that the Harry Gwala District is one of the hardest hit by the current drought effects that are impacting the Province. It was reported that the District had been escalated from level 3 to level 4 in terms of drought effects on a 1 to 5 scale - 1 being the least effects and 5 the most effects.

In addressing this, MEC Xaba also highlighted that the Province is facing a tough period where water has become such a scarce commodity and the dire impact it has had on the farmers and people of the Province. He stated that in the current drought, soya is a preferred alternative to be grown instead of maize, which requires a lot of water."



KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba together with Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Clrr Mluleki Ndobe, Inkosi Phathasizwe Chiliza, Inkosi Fodo Dlamini, KZN MPL Ms Lindiwe Bebe and Highlands JS School Mr Sbheka Mntaka during the handover of planting implements



MEC Cyril Xaba together with Harry Gwala District Mayor Clrr Mluleki Ndobe handing over tractor keys to Mr Dlamini of Sihleza Co-Operative



From left: Inkosi Phathasizwe Chiliza, Masisizane Fund CEO Mr Simphiwe Somdyala, Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Clrr Mluleki Ndobe witnessing the signing of a R34 Million cheque by KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba



From left: Inkosi Fodo Dlamini, Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Clrr Mluleki Ndobe, KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, Inkosi Phathasizwe Chiliza and Masisizane Fund CEO Mr Simphiwe Somdyala celebrating after the signing of the cheque and social charter



MEC Cyril Xaba together with Harry Gwala District Mayor Municipality Clrr Mluleki Ndobe, Masisizane Fund CEO Mr Simphiwe Somdyala Inkosi Phathasizwe Chiliza and Umzimkhulu Local Municipality Mayor Clrr Mphuthumi Mpabanga with the social charter which symbolises a solid partnership between the public and private sector



MEC Cyril Xaba together with Mayor Clrr Mluleki Ndobe, Masisizane Fund CEO Mr Simphiwe Somdyala, Inkosi Phathasizwe Chiliza and Umzimkhulu Local Municipality Mayor Clrr Mphuthumi Mpabanga, KZN MPL Ms Lindiwe Bebe and Members of various Co-Operatives the R34 Million cheque

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