



## rural development & land reform

Department:  
Rural Development and Land Reform  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

### **ACTION ON THE AGRI-PARKS FRONT: MINISTER CALLS FOR COLLABORATION FROM ALL SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRI-PARKS**

12 September 2015

Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti together with the KZN Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Cyril Xaba, took the opportunity to address farming organizations, District Mayors and Traditional leaders from all over the Province.

In line with the 2015 State of the Nation address, President Zuma highlighted that Agriculture is a catalyst for growth and food security and R2 Billion would be set aside for the establishment of Agri-Parks. The SONA 2015 clearly states that some of the key interventions would be the promotion of the establishment of Agri-Parks in each of the 27 poorest district municipalities including some in KwaZulu-Natal, to transform rural communities.

Agri-Parks are farmer-controlled entities that serve as a catalyst around which rural industrialization will take place. They serve to provide a network of contacts between producers, markets and processors while also providing physical infrastructure required for processing of agricultural products. The Agri-Park approach includes the selection and training of small-holder farmers, also the selection of farms for placement, incubation and training of unemployed agricultural graduates and other agro-entrepreneurs. These Agri-Parks will be supported by Government for a minimum period of 10 years to ensure economic sustainability.

The provision of these Agri-Parks seeks to promote growth of the small-holder sector by contributing to the 300 000 new small-scale producers as well as to the 145 000 new jobs in agro-processing as set out in the National Growth Plan (NGP). R45 million has been allocated for the establishment of each Agri-Park and ten Districts have been identified for Agri-Parks in KwaZulu-Natal amounting to R450 million, making it the Province with the most allocated Agri-Parks.

Minister Nkwinti said this programme is a catalyst in the socio-economic development of rural communities. The Minister continued in his statement by saying that this programme requires that National, Provincial and Municipal spheres of Government to take ownership of it; Provincial Departments and District Municipalities must link their development strategies and I.D.P's to the

National Government plans so as to have synergy that will ensure the success of these programmes. The Minister also said that due to the fact that 70% of the Agri-Parks belong to farmers, it automatically means that they have the most power and responsibility in the success of Agri-Parks.

MEC Xaba fully supported the Minister by saying that Agri-Parks are a spring board for Rural Economic transformation and it is for the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (KZNDARD) to see that land which had been successfully claimed by communities, doesn't lie fallow but rather, receives the necessary support. This will see the emerging sector developing into the value chain and participate in agro-processing so they can play an integral role in agricultural economy in the Province and the country.

Both the emerging and commercial farmers were very welcoming of the programme. Mrs Makhozi Xakaza, Chairperson of W.A.R.D, expressed satisfaction that the Minister and the MEC had provided emerging farmers with this opportunity and Mr Roland Henderson of KwaNalu said that this is a brilliant concept that is going to see them as commercial farmers fusing skills, resources and knowledge for a common goal ensuring food security and merging the two economies.



National Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Gugile Nkwinti together with KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural development Mr Cyril Xaba and KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Head of Department Dr Sipiwe Mkhize, unpacking more on the Agri-Parks Programme



MEC Cyril Xaba addressing the KZN Ministerial Agri-Parks and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform session



National Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Gugile Nkwinti together with KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural development Mr Cyril Xaba in discussion during the KZN Ministerial Agri-Parks and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Session at Cedara outside Pietermaritzburg

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