



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

11 August 2015

MINISTER AND MEC VISIT THE MAKHATHINI MULTI - MILLION COTTON PROJECT

The Minister of DRDLR, Honourable Gugile Nkwinti, will be joined by MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Cyril Xaba for a Farmer's Day event to be held in Makhathini Cotton Gin on the 14th August 2015, in Jozini, KwaZulu-Natal.

The Makhathini Gin is a project that was purchased by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAFF) with the intention of re-commissioning it to process local cotton production. The Gin is run by the Ubongwa Cotton Farmers Association, which consist of 30 farmers associations under its wing. A total amount of R20 million has been funded to this project by the DAFF.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) entered into a Funding Agreement with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) specifically to focus on Enterprise Development in the: "Enhancement of cotton production by small holder farmers in the Makhathini region".

The event is prepared with the intention to inform all the cotton farmers around Makhathini flats about the revitalization of the Gin and the potential of cotton production and to enhance cotton production by small holder farmers in the Makhathini region to enable them to become sustainable producers of quality cotton. This will also apply to the on-going job creation potential of the project related to continuous cotton production to feed the entire value chain via the Makhathini Gin. A total amount of R11.5million was funded by DRDLR.

The event will be held as follows:

Date : **14 August 2015.**
Time : **09:30am.**
Venue : **Makhathini Gin, Jozini (Ward 6)**

For **RSVP** and further information regarding the event kindly contact the following officials:

Mr. Lelethu Manentsa: KZNDARD MLO

Cell: 071 492 5716

E-mail: lelethu01@gmail.com

Mr. Sbonelo Hlongwane:

Tel: 033 355 4416

E-mail: sbonelo.hlongwane@drdlr.gov.za