



## agriculture & rural development

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

### **KZN DARD INTERVENES IN HAILSTORM DAMAGE IN IMBABAZANE**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal is assessing the damage caused by a hailstorm which ravaged yellow maize crops in the Mangweni area under the Imbabazane local Municipality.

Almost 150 hectares of maize fields are planted by subsistence farmers in Umtshezi and Imbabazane municipalities under the guidance and assistance of the Department's Mechanisation Programme.

MEC Cyril Xaba's visit to the area came after the invitation by the local chief Inkosi S. Mazibuko who requested Xaba to visit and assess the area for future projects. Mayor of Imbabazane Local Municipality, Councillor Phindile Strydom, said the local municipality will support the Department in making sure that agriculture takes the centre stage in the area.

MEC Xaba told the community that he was there to engage with them to learn more about their challenges and successes. He empathised with the farmers who had lost their crops in the recent hailstorm and assured them that his Department would look at what measures can be taken to assist the affected farmers. He hailed a project in the area in which farmers were growing yellow maize. More than 32 hectares of yellow maize were planted mainly in Wards 5 and 12 of the Imbabazane Municipality. MEC Xaba told the gathering of more than 500 farmers, that there was a demand for yellow maize by the South African Breweries for the production of beer. He said SABMiller, has approached the Department requesting it to coordinate a partnership between subsistence farmers and the company. If successful, the partnership will see subsistence farmers with interest in yellow maize production benefiting immensely in the transaction. It will also create employment and grow the economy of the area.



The MEC for KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, together with the Mayor of Mbabazane Local Municipality, Clrr Phindile Strydom, Member of the National Assembly Mrs Sibongile Mchunu and Inkosi Mazibuko assessing at the damage that had been caused by the hailstorm



MEC Cyril Xaba, Mayor of Mbabazane Local Municipality, Clrr Phindile Strydom and Inkosi Mazibuko during their oversight visit at the Maize Farm





Maize Farm at Imbabazane



MEC Xaba addressing the Amangwe Community



Amangwe Community