



**agriculture
& rural development**

Department:
agriculture
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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



**Media Statement
MEC FOR KZN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
MR CYRIL XABA, DIFFUSES TENSIONS IN HLUHLUWE
ALLEGED CATTLE POISONING SAGA**

MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, dropped all engagements and rushed to Hluhluwe today, 19 May 2015, to diffuse tensions between communal and commercial farmers. This was after 27 cattle belonging to communal farmers, were found dead next to a drinking trough. The cattle owners alleged that the water was poisoned by a local commercial farm owner who objected to the communal herd straying onto his land.

A concerned MEC Xaba said "I urge you not to take the law into your hands, let us allow all the necessary processes to take place so we can get to the core of this matter and resolve it."

This was after he had met with the communal farmers and emphasized the importance of having close and cooperative relationships with neighbours, especially in the farming community.

MEC Xaba said "research by the Department and investigations by the law enforcement units are unfolding so as to uncover what would have led to this tragedy"

The alleged cattle poisoning was brought to the MEC's attention by the KZN Organisation of African Farmers who had been contacted by the livestock owners.

The communal farmers alleged a history of harassment. They said they had insufficient grazing land as a result of the current drought. Arrangements had been made with neighbouring farms to assist them with grazing land. Some were willing to help and others refused. They alleged that those who refused confiscated cattle that strayed onto their land and then demanded R300 per head for their release. The alleged poisoning took place on Monday and the matter had been reported to both the SAPS and the SPCA.

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