



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

MEC MLIBO QOBOSHIYANE FORMS A COLLABORATION WITH KWAZULU-NATAL DARD

KZN's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is being visited by the Eastern Cape's Rural Development and Agrarian Reform MEC Mlibo Qoboshiyane to learn best practises and forge closer ties.

KZN DARD MEC Mr Cyril Xaba, said the province was delighted to form a partnership with Mr Qoboshiyane's Department.

Speaking at a gala dinner at Dube Trade Port on Wednesday night, MEC Xaba said there were many common features between the two provinces. He added that working together to strengthen agriculture in the country came at a critical moment for both provinces.

According to MEC Xaba, KwaZulu-Natal had set a target of creating 230 000 agricultural jobs by 2030, as per the projections of the National Development Plan. He said the revitalisation of land reform farms that were transferred back to rural communities was key to ensuring that meaningful job creation was achieved.

"Municipal boundaries separating the provinces should not deter cooperation between provinces which are serving the same government because collaboration will always ensure speedy service delivery. Agriculture will stimulate economic growth and open doors for the creation of jobs and poverty alleviation," said MEC Xaba.

MEC Qoboshiyane agreed with his KZN counterpart saying both provinces had a mammoth task of providing service delivery and they should therefore, pull together to achieve common goals.

He said that in the Eastern Cape, about 300 000 hectares of land were lying fallow and they wanted to ensure that this land was fully utilised to increase agricultural output. According to Qoboshiyane, the agricultural sector only contributed 7% to the total GDP in the country. This is not what should be happening considering that South Africa prides itself on having vast and fertile land.

The visit which commenced on Monday 9 March 2015, ends on Saturday 14 March 2015. The Eastern Cape delegation visited the Makhathini Flats Agricultural projects in the far North of KZN as well as sugar cane farms in other parts of the province. They have also spent time at the Cedara Agricultural College and viewed the research work being carried out on Cedara Farm where the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Head office is situated.



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, together with the Eastern Cape MEC for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, Mr Mlibo Qoboshiyane, during dinner at Latitude Center, Dube Trade Port



MEC Cyril Xaba together with the MEC Mlibo Qoboshiyane during the media briefing



MEC Cyril Xaba and MEC Mlibo Qoboshiyane during the media briefing