



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

YOUNG GIRLS ARE THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN KZN

School girls from various schools in Ilembe District converged in Durban recently where they took part in a summit aimed at empowering young women on social, academic and lifestyle issues.

The summit was organized by the Department of Arts and Culture and the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Cyril Xaba, was the guest speaker.

MEC Xaba said in order to instill the culture of agriculture in school learners, he has proposed to the MEC for Education in the province to introduce agricultural studies as a subject in schools. Learners who choose the subject, can go on to study agriculture at university or at one of the agricultural colleges.

“Government is also offering various bursaries for agricultural studies. I should imagine that any learner involved in a school garden project and wanting to study agriculture, would stand a good chance of being awarded a bursary,” said MEC Xaba.

He went on to say that there are plenty of possibilities in which girls can choose to become agricultural engineers, soil scientists or extension officers who go out and advise farmers on the latest techniques in farming.

Just by being involved in the Girl’s Garden Club, girls may discover that they have a passion for farming and studying agriculture, would put them in good stead of receiving a bursary.

“The sky is the limit. In my travels around the province, I meet women who are successful farmers, many of them with very little formal education but who took advantage of skills development programs offered by government.”

MEC Xaba reiterated that agriculture is seen by the government as one of the core areas to grow the economy and create jobs.

“With more people farming and planting gardens, we can ensure that there is enough food to feed the nation,” said the MEC.

The summit commenced on 17 March 2015 and concluded on 20 March 2015. Among the critical issues that were discussed in the summit, was HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, education, sports and other matters of importance which affect young girls at schools particularly, in rural areas.



MEC for KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, addressing the delegates at the Girls Summit



MEC Cyril Xaba addressing the delegates at the Girls Summit



MEC Cyril Xaba having a light moment with the MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, Mrs Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha



Delegates of the School Girls Summit



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