



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

YOUTH AND FORESTS - TOGETHER UNLOCKING THE GREEN ECONOMY

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) General Bheki Cele will officially launch the first ever group of 200 youth as part of the government's programme of promoting youth participation in the formerly white dominated sectors. The group of 200 is part of the legacy programmes aimed at youth empowerment. The programme will extend and accommodate many young people into the forestry sector thus responding directly to the priorities of government for Food Security, Job Creation and Economic Growth.

The event is planned as follows:

Date: Friday 19 June 2015

Time: 08h00

Venue: CEDARA, KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg)

The Forestry sector generates just over R42 Billion per annum and contributes significantly to the GDP of the country. Deputy Minister Cele has called for radical transformation in the sector and urged big businesses to support the new entrants in the sector especially the youth, in ensuring that they become economically active in the forestry space. The launch will be followed by an extensive on site visit to the forests in KwaZulu-Natal which will include, visits to SAPPI plantations, Agro forestry project, the treating timber plant and other interesting inside info of the forestry space.

The launch of the legacy project serves as a build up to the World Forestry Congress, which will be held for the first time on the African Soil since 1926. The congress will be held in Durban from 7 - 11 September 2015.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Cele recently led a high level delegation to the United Nations Forestry Forum (UNFF) in New York, where all UN member countries robustly discussed the massive opportunities and growth in the sector. The conference exposed South Africa extensively in the sustainable forestry sector, hence the launch of the legacy project which will be rolled out countrywide.

This project marks the continued celebration of youth highlighting the importance of youth participation in the forestry sector. The aim is to unlock the opportunities that exist in the "Green Economy" in the forestry sector. Which will speak specifically to the opportunities for young people in forestry sector as a career and business venture.

In partnership with the industry leaders, the Honorable Deputy Minister will launch the legacy project under the theme "Youth and Forests - Together Unlocking the Green Economy".

For RSVP please contact Musa Khumalo [0123196695](tel:0123196695) / [0721991616](tel:0721991616)

Project Visit: Immediately after the official launch

For further information please contact:

Ms Nonkululeko Mbatha

Spokesperson for the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Cell: [083 645 6252](tel:0836456252)

E-mail: NonkululekoM@daff.gov.za