



agriculture  
& rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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**SPEECH BY KZN MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT, MR CYRIL XABA AT THE HANDOVER OF TITLE  
DEEDS TO THE INSIKA YAMABOMBO COMMUNAL PROPERTY TRUST  
02 MAY 2015**

Program Director

Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Speakers

Amakhosi present

Chief Director for Land Restitution Support in KZN

Councilors and government representatives

Members of the Insika Yamabombo Communal Land Trust and the Zindela  
Clan

Honored guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are celebrating the end of a long struggle by the Zindela clan to get back their land. To the community, I say the land finally belongs to you and I will be handing over the title deeds to prove your ownership.

I want to thank you for ensuring that what has been given to you remains a productive farm.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a success story and an example of what government would like to see happening with other land claim projects.

In 2013, the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform approved the settlement of the Insika Yamabombo Community claim through land restoration. One hundred and fifty households benefitted and the total

amount spent by government to get the 545 hectares for the community was just over R14 million.

The community continued to farm the land which is mainly under sugar. They formed a partnership with Illovo Sugar. The company has mentored the project and so far more than 30 jobs have been created. The farm is run by members of the Insika yamaBombo Communal Property Trust and I must commend the members of the Trust for renovating and restoring the farmhouse on the land. It shows that you do not take your claim for granted and that there is pride and joy in what now belongs to you. The Trust also used money acquired out of the Restitution process to buy equipment that is essential for the proper running of the farm. I understand that you have bigger plans to grow agriculture in the area and to enhance your farming skills as new land owners.

On your own, you have started implementing the vision of my department's strategy to transform agriculture in this province. South Africa needs farms and farmers. Often when agricultural land is redistributed it does not always end up being farmed. I have criticized absentee landowners who gain farms through land restitution, show off that they own a farm, but continue to live in the city while their farms lie unproductive.

I applaud the Zindela clan for ensuring the productivity of the land they have re-claimed. All agricultural land is valuable if we are to grow our economy and ensure food security in this country not only for our children but our children's children.

In my new vision for agrarian transformation, I stress that to grow the business of agriculture, "we need to work in collaboration with commercial farmers and agricultural commodity organizations. This is also in line with National Government's Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP). You are following this path by working in partnership with Illovo Sugar.

Over the past weeks, I have been meeting with a number of commodity organizations and we are entering into partnerships to train our extension officers as well as to implement farmer development programs. These are aimed at equipping farmers like the members of the Isika Yamabombo Trust with the right technology and training to become commercially successful.

As new entrant farmers, there are a number of challenges that you face. A major issue is that of financial resources. It is for this reason that a key pillar of the province's new strategy to transform agriculture is that of support for land reform projects, especially projects as you have here, we

want to see you grow from success to success and maintain your productivity.

This is why my department, together with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, national and provincial treasury with financial institutions are looking at effective funding mechanisms for land reform farmers. In addition, local District Land Committees are being put in place across the province to offer integrated support to land reform farms from all levels of government – national, provincial and municipal.

Going forward, the aim is not to throw money at projects but to first assess whether they are viable. To see if government is getting value for the money it is investing. Over the years, projects have received a lot of money, yet it was difficult to see whether there were adequate returns on the investment. You can't plough in more than you are going to get out because this is unsustainable.

The Zindela clan has made an impressive start and is going about the business of farming in the correct manner to qualify for such support. As I said at the beginning, you are an example of a success story. Please keep up the good work and maintain what you have started so that you can be a role-model for other land reform projects.

Today marks the end of your struggle that started in 1938 - over 60 years ago to get your land back. Even in this battle, the elders of the clan went about this task in an organized manner.

According to the Zindela's they lived on the land since the 1800's. They have always understood that their forefathers bought this farm from the British Government by exchanging cattle for the land. The situation changed in the 1900's when Chief Tom Fynn came to live on the property. It was explained to them that the chief and his clan were there to act as a buffer between the warring aMachi and amaCele tribes. Tensions arose in the 1930's when the Fynns remained on the land after the war between the two tribes had ended. According to the Zindela elders in 1938, some of their families were forcefully and physically removed by Chief Tom Fynn.

This first and subsequent forced removals angered the Zindelas and they started seeking legal advice to get their land back. I have been told by the Land Claims Commission that the Zindela elders consulted lawyers in Durban and Ulundi and kept records of their numerous efforts and all the letters that were exchanged in their struggle to reclaim their land. Your battle is finally over and you will soon have in your possession the title deeds to prove that this land belongs to you.

I want to thank Advocate Mbili and his team at the KZN Land Claims Commission for their hard work investigating and verifying claims. This is not easy as they have to go back and trace historical records to make sure that the land is going to the right beneficiaries. The process is also held up because along the way there can be court challenges involving the Claim.

To members of the Zindela Clan, thank you once more for keeping this land as a productive farm. As I said earlier, you can be a role-model for other land reform farms. More importantly you can play a role in uplifting the area. Both the Ezingoleni and Umuziwabantu municipalities sees agriculture as key to growing the economy of the area. The work that you do on your farm will contribute to that growth.

Please continue to take care of the land and show your elders that all their efforts were not in vain. Make them proud because like them, you are keeping up the proud Zindela tradition of farming the land.



MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, signing the certificate of settlement of the Insika Yamabombo Community Land Claim



MEC Cyril Xaba, Inkosi Phathisizwe Chiliza, Mayor of Umuziwabantu Local Municipality Clrr D. Nciki, Rural Development and Land Reform Chief Director Mr Nhlanhla Mndaweni and senior members of the Zindela Clan Mr Absalom Shazi, Mr Alson Zindela, Dayimani Shazi, Johannes Shazi, Mr Mzwandile Shazi, Dumuzela Shazi and Zamokwakhe Shazi



MEC Cyril Xaba and Inkosi Phathisizwe Chiliza handing over title deeds to Insika Communal Trust Members Mr Mzwandile Shazi, Dumuzela Shazi and Zamokwakhe Shazi



MEC Xaba with the community members of Nqabeni singing and dancing together after the official handing over of title deeds

Photos by Mbuyiselo Ndlovu

For more information, please contact Nalini Dickson on 0832340475