



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

### **EMADLANGENI GEARED FOR AGRIBUSINESS**

Urgent agricultural intervention is what is needed for the eMadlangeni Municipality area as per the agreement between Minister Senzeni Zokwana for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and MEC Cyril Xaba for Agriculture and Rural Development during the recent visit to the area.

The visit comes after the President's call for the Ministers to consult with different communities and determine their concerns.

eMadlangeni has been identified as a poverty stricken area but has all the potential for agricultural development. The local farmers have been severely affected as there has been shortage of rain in the past few months. Another blow experienced by the farmers came in the form of hail storms which destroyed thousands of hectares of plantation resulting in remarkable decrease in yields.

With all the challenges facing the area, there are farming areas that have survived the severity of unfavourable weather conditions.

Such a farm is the ALS Farm, a maize production farm which boasts 8000ha for farming. The farm also uses state of the art technology farming equipment, including some exported from countries like Argentina.

One of the latest planting systems implemented here is the narrowing of spacing when planting maize. This system has increased yields by 15%.

This system was initiated as a joint venture by seven local farmers with a vision of uplifting the area with farming. Cas Joubert and Rev Schalk Scott, managers overseeing the whole project, reinforced their intentions to continue working and training black struggling farmers and transfer necessary skills to farmers.

Read more in MEC Xaba's speech



**ALS Maize Farm Tractors**



**National Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Senzeni Zokwana and KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba during their oversight visit at Waaihoek Black Eyed Beans Farm**



**Minister Senzeni Zokwana and MEC Cyril Xaba assessing the damage caused by the hailstorm at Sandspruit Farm**



**MEC Xaba addressing the eMadlangeni Community**