



## VISIT WITH DAIRY FARMERS IN THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, had welcoming news for dairy farmers in the province. He revealed that the schools nutrition programme would include milk products in its menu. The Milk Producers Organization (MPO), as a commodity association, had been campaigning for dairy to be part of the school nutrition programme.

During a visit to dairy farms in the Harry Gwala District, MEC Xaba announced that starting from April 2015, school menus will have to include amasi and long life milk.

Dairy farmers had invited the MEC with the intention of showing him the potential for growth of the milk sector in their district and the challenges they faced with uncertainty over the land reform process. They had also enthusiastically informed him of their success stories in developing young black managers and emerging dairy farmers.

The farmers emphasized that a major challenge involved the transfer of skills and training, an area, which they would like the Department to focus on.

MEC Xaba responded to the farmers in his speech after the visit. The full text of the speech is included.



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba, together with the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality, Cllr Mluleki Ndobe, Mayor of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and Senior officials of the Department were informed of the daily operations of Rockfontein Dairy Farm by Mr Sifiso Ntshiza who is an apprentice farmer being trained to be a 'future' farm manager and owner under the FutureFarmers programme



MEC Cyril Xaba congratulating Mr Sifiso Ntshiza on his achievements and wishing him all best for the future



MEC Cyril Xaba together with the Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality Cllr Mluleki Ndobe, Mayor of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality Cllr Zamo Nxumalo and Mr Ngcobo, a successful emerging Dairy Farmer

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Photos by Mbuyiselo Ndlovu