



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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# Dept gets interdict against Nehawu

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THE Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has obtained an urgent temporary interdict to prevent the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union from causing disruptions at Cedara.

The order was granted on Friday in the Pietermaritzburg high court. The unopposed application was brought by advocates Gardener van Niekerk, SC, and Kavitha Bheemchand.

The order follows an incident on Thursday when strikers blocked the entrance and exit to the department's Cedara premises, calling for the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Themba Mthembu, to be axed.

Idah Zwane, chief director at the department, said in court papers that the Nehawu region wishes to oust the MEC and that its members and a group of people, parked their cars to block the entrance and exit.

The department was not given any notice of the strike.

At first there were about 50 people participating, but the numbers increased to about 200 people and at least 12 cars and taxis.

She said rubber bullets were fired at the group to disperse them, but they later re-grouped, shouting slogans and toy-toying.

The roads to the premises were blockaded and opened intermittently during the day when police intervened.

Zwane said the strike action was undermining the department's operations and hampering service delivery.

The department's operations exist on a national scale and strikers are hampering service delivery by their actions, she said.

If the order is not granted, she added, the department and its service providers will not be able to continue their functions. Thus, they will potentially be in breach of their service level obligations. This, she said, will translate into potential damage claims from customers and service providers amounting to hundreds of thousands of rands.

The interim order is also against Nehawu's provincial secretary Phakama Ndunakazi; regional secretary Zamisife Giyama; two department employees who do not work at the Cedara offices, Sbongiseni Nxumalo and Sanele Kunene; and what is referred to as "the group of people currently gathered at the entrance to Cedara".

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