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MEC for Agriculture tells Kings to open Land for Business & Jobs

<https://newzsa.co.za/f/mec-for-agriculture-tells-kings-to-open-land-for-business-jobs>

The audit, which covered 9 568 sites across 11 districts, revealed that 357 facilities are currently being occupied illegally.



Photo: MEC For Agriculture and Rural Development, KaMadlopha-Mthethwa

KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa says government is taking firm steps to unlock land for productive use not just for farming, but to drive broader economic growth across the province. This comes after kaMadlopha-Mthethwa

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Martin Meyer and Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs MEC Rev. Musa Zondi to transfer 11 commercial farms to her department. Most of the farms are based in the uMzinyathi District, with more identified properties set to follow.

The MOU paves the way for the Department of Agriculture to repurpose unused and under-utilized land for both agricultural and business development ensuring that the land contributes to job creation, food security, and investment growth. Speaking during the signing in Musgrave, Durban, kaMadlopha-Mthethwa said the time has come for land to be released freely for development, especially to credible companies that want to invest and create jobs.

“We must move away from a situation where land is sitting idle while our people remain unemployed and hungry,” she said. “When responsible investors and businesses approach traditional leaders or government for land, we should allow development to happen. This is how we will grow KwaZulu-Natal’s economy and tackle poverty.”



Photo : MEC for Public Works Mr. Martin Meyer, MEC for Agriculture KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, MEC, Rev. Zondi for Tourism & Environmental Affairs

The MEC said access to land is key to reducing food insecurity, which currently affects nearly 20% of households in the province. She added that partnerships between government, business and traditional leaders would help create sustainable growth and ensure that communities benefit directly from local projects.

“Our aim is to make KwaZulu-Natal a province of opportunity, not one where land is fenced off and forgotten. This vision continues the legacy of the late Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who believed in progress through responsible land use and economic inclusion,” kaMadlopha-Mthethwa said. The initiative is part of a wider provincial drive to repurpose public land, attract private investment, and position agriculture and land development as key drivers of KZN’s economic recovery.