

## MULTI-PLANTING SEASON TO PROMOTE KZN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE NEWS - The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government has reaffirmed the province's focus on self-sufficiency, rural revitalisation, and long-term food security.

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Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli unveiled the 2025 Provincial Multi-Planting Season, a flagship provincial initiative aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening food security, and revitalising rural economies.

The Multi-Planting Season was launched on Friday at eNhlanhleni Mission in Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality, under the Harry Gwala District, setting the tone for a productive agricultural season ahead.

The programme, led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, also underscores the province's commitment to empowering local farmers and communities to produce more food, reduce hunger, and contribute to KwaZulu-Natal's economic resilience.

Delivering his keynote address at the event, Ntuli noted the recent studies, which revealed that 15% of people in KwaZulu-Natal still experience food shortages, especially in rural areas.



These challenges have been worsened by recurring natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, and the lingering socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Premier emphasised that the Provincial Government's Multi-Planting Season Programme was a key response to these challenges, designed to boost local food production, improve livelihoods, and stimulate agricultural productivity across districts.

"Agriculture must be seen as a weapon to defeat hunger and grow our economy. We must work together to ensure that every piece of arable land is used productively to feed our people and strengthen our communities," the Premier said.

He urged young people to see agriculture as a viable career path and a driver of socioeconomic transformation.

The Premier also reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting smallholder farmers through access to inputs, training, and infrastructure, as part of a broader effort to build a resilient and inclusive agricultural economy.

He emphasised that the success of the Multi-Planting Season relies on strong partnerships between government, farmers, private sector stakeholders, and communities.

"This collaborative approach is vital to ensuring that food production efforts translate into sustainable growth and improved quality of life in rural areas," he said.

Ntuli was accompanied by MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Thembeni KaMadlopha Mthethwa, Harry Gwala District Speaker, Sibongiseni Mdunge, Deputy Mayor of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality, Kholeka Hadebe, and senior government officials. – **SAnews.gov.za**