

PLEASE HELP US!

Fishing and farming kasi appeals to govt

By XOLILE NKOSI

RESIDENTS of Umzube on the KZN south coast have urged government to help them eradicate poverty and unemployment in their area.

On Friday the residents attended an imbizo organised by deputy minister of agriculture Bheki Cele.

The imbizo was held at the Ntelezi Msani Heritage Centre.

Farmers and fishermen from the village asked Cele to sponsor them with fishing and farming equipment so that they can make a living.

Resident Wilfred Ncube (54) said they needed boats to travel further from the coastline to catch more fish.

"The community could make large amounts of money if we could catch lots of fish," Ncube said.

"We have a lot of potential and we believe we can create big businesses with the right support."

Mthokozisi Chamane (52), another resident, urged the deputy minister to review his department's fishing policy.

Phumulile Shinga (45), a farmer, said the area is blessed with fertile soil that allows locals to plant different types of vegetables throughout the year.

"We plant and harvest lots of produce.



Deputy Minister for Agriculture Bheki Cele (left) with the mayor of Umzube, Sizwe Ngcobo.

"However, we do not have a market where we can sell our vegetables.

"We need a place where people can buy our products.

"This community has the ability to supply big supermarkets.

"We are ready to create jobs for people in the area.

"All we need is a bit of help," she said.

Cele said fishing boats are very expensive, but he promised to ask the department of trade and industry for help.

"I am going to push for radical change in the area because I can see lots of families survive by farming and fishing.

"I cannot promise anything right now, but I will sit down with different departments and see what we can do."