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Cyril Xaba, KZN MEC for agriculture and rural development and deputy minister Mcebisi Skwatsha discuss procedures.

Land must be returned — but in the right way

By MFANAFUTHI NXUMALO

DEPUTY minister of rural development Mcebisi Skwatsha, said people who take land without following the proper procedures will be dealt with.

He said those who want to disrupt the government's initiative to claim back the land will be arrested.

He was speaking at Cedara Auditorium during the launch of the KZN District Land Committee.

Skwatsha said: "As government we want to ensure that we bring back to the people, the land of their forefathers.

"But we will follow the proper procedures to ensure that we meet the current owners' demands.

"We will not just make a certain group happy while another group complains about the decisions we take in giving back the land to the people."

Skwatsha said the country's development depends on the land. Skwatsha said the government takes the land issue seriously.

"Everything we talk about here involves land.

"This task of bringing back the land to its rightful owners of this country cannot be done by government alone.

"Everyone need to play a role," said Skwatsha.

Cyril Xaba, KZN MEC for agriculture and rural development, said the establishment of the district land committee is a bold new approach to the way they do business.

He said things will change for the better.

"It's an approach that will address issues and speed up the land reform process.

"It will boost agriculture and address poverty, especially in rural areas," Xaba said.