

~~NEW AGE PAGE 11 21/09/15~~

# Establishing agri-parks for growth and security

TNA REPORTER

NATIONAL Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti and his KZN counterpart Cyril Xaba will be in Pietermaritzburg tomorrow for consultations regarding the establishment of agri-parks for which R2bn has been allocated.

They will meet with traditional leaders, district mayors and both emerging and commercial farming organisations tomorrow at the Centenary Hall in Cedara.

“In line with this year’s state of the nation address President Zuma said agriculture is a catalyst for growth and food security and R2bn would be set aside for the establishment of agri-parks,” Simphiwe Ndwandwe of the KZN agriculture department said.

The allocation of the R2bn is aimed at fulfilling the presidential undertaking to establish agri-parks in each of the 27 poorest district municipalities, including some in KZN to transform rural communities.

“MEC Cyril Xaba sees the implementation of agri-parks as taking a step forward in putting the strategy on agrarian reform and transformation in action,” Ndwandwe said.

The Pietermaritzburg meeting is part of consultative meetings in the different districts of KZN to find synergy as the implementation process gets underway. – 701198