



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

PROFILE

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal Mr Themba Mthembu

Born in 1958 in Durban, Mr Themba Mthembu was born in a working class family. He went to and completed his schooling in KwaMashu Township where his family resided.

Upon matriculation, he went on to study at the Mangosuthu University of Technology and graduated in Chemical Engineering. For the longest time, he worked as a Chemical Engineering Technician at uMgeni Water, the largest State Water Authority Utility in KwaZulu-Natal.

He has obtained an Honours Degree in Government Leadership and is presently completing his Master's Degree with Wits University.

Mr Mthembu has been part of the anti-apartheid resistance and struggle in South Africa. In the 1970's to the early 1980's, he was part of the students' activism which essentially fought against the apartheid system and colonial type of higher education towards the oppressed blacks in South Africa. This led, naturally, to his involvement with underground political work against apartheid under the command of the ANC through political cells.

As a professional in the uMgeni Water authority, he became a trade union leader and a full-time negotiator under the auspices of the NEHAWU union, the biggest union that organises in the public sector in South Africa.

He is the current Provincial Secretary of the South African Communist Party in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. In 2009, he was deployed to the Provincial Legislature and was appointed as a Chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee.

In 2016, he was appointed by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal as the Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) for Agriculture and Rural Development, a position he holds to date.