



**agriculture
& rural development**

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE STRENGTHENING
OF RELATIVE RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WORKING
THE LAND (50/50) PROGRAMME**

DATE: 20 AUGUST 2016

VENUE: WESTCLIFFE FARM

Programme Director

His Excellency President J.G. Zuma

National Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Honourable
Mr G. Nkwinti

Members of the Provincial Legislature

Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Speakers and Councillors Present

Amakhosi

Westcliffe Farmer Mr A. Braithwaite

Representative of the Ekhamanzi Trust, Mr R. Ntuli

Religious and Community Leaders

All Officials Present

Ladies and Gentlemen

KwaZulu-Natal is indeed fortunate to have one of the first pilot projects where farm workers become co-owners of the farming enterprise that they have helped to build and grow.

This is a demonstration of Policy in action. It is also historical because it addresses that demand made by farm workers more than 60 years ago in the Freedom Charter – that the land will be shared amongst those who work on it.

As MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KZN, my gratitude goes to Minister Nkwinti for making this happen. Thank you to farm owner Mr Braithwaite and the farm workers, who have formed the Ekhamanzi Trust, for demonstrating to the rest of the Province what is possible and what can be achieved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am excited about this development here in uMshwathi for a number of reasons.

The 50/50 Policy Framework also known as the Strengthening of Relative Land Rights for People Working the Land is giving recognition to farm workers. The policy demonstrates that Government does not have a one solution fits all when it comes to land reform. Policy and programmes are being developed and directed at a specific sector. In this case, the forgotten and often neglected farm workers whose sweat and toil provides food security to our country. They make it possible for us to have food on our tables.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you have not, I urge you to read the policy. You will see that what stands out, is the link between land policy and socio-economic development. This is another exciting aspect of the policy. Workers and farm dwellers are placed at the centre of a transformation agenda to improve their lives. We know about the inequality gap in our country and the vicious cycle of poverty. The children of farm workers must have opportunities that will allow them to break out of this cycle. Their futures cannot be held hostage by poverty.

Although it may not be obvious at first, this Policy promotes unity and partnerships. What is often forgotten is that the ANC at its Mangaung conference, resolved that Government could not transform the economy alone. This transformation would only be achieved by the united action of all South Africans working in a concerted manner to eradicate poverty, create full employment and reduce inequality.

The Conference resolved that Government must commit itself to build strong partnerships with community organizations, and social movements, with trade unions, with the business sector, youth, women and in the case of agriculture, with commodity organizations and organized agriculture.

Here at Westcliffe Farm, we have an example of this partnership. Minister Nkwinti it has been encouraging to speak about this policy. You said that farmers were coming forward wanting to be part of this programme. You also said that the farm owners as partners will play a mentorship role to farmworkers, thus enhancing skills development. This fits in with KZN's own strategy for Agrarian Transformation, where we have pledged to work through partnerships to promote sound agricultural practises that promote economic growth, food security and the advancement of rural communities.

The 50/50 policy show that we have come a long way, but we are mindful that much work still lies ahead to restore the fabric of our nation and redress 350 years of land and economic deprivation. More needs to be done to protect and support farm workers and dwellers, especially seasonal workers. This arena is not being neglected.

In KwaZulu-Natal we have a poverty-eradication master plan. We believe that the Agri-Parks that are being developed in the districts will also go a long way to building up rural communities. Most exciting is that for rural development in the province, we have a cooperative governance model where different levels of government and the agricultural community are working together to build an inclusive rural economy.

We are moving forward and once more I welcome, applaud and support the Westcliffe Farm initiative for being part of this agenda for transformation.

Thank You.



National Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Gugile Nkwinti together with KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Themba Mthembu, Westcliffe Farm Land Owner Mr Andrew Braithwaite and Umshwathi Local Municipality Deputy Mayor Clrr Maphindi Zondi with new land owners holding their Certificates of Land Use Rights



National Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Gugile Nkwinti together with KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Themba Mthembu and Westclife Farm Land Owner Mr Andrew Braithwaite handing over a Land Use Rights certificate to Mr Robert Ntuli, the chairperson of farm workers



KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Themba Mthembu delivering his Message of Support and introducing the National Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Nkwinti



National Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Gugile Nkwinti delivering his keynote address

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