



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

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Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SPEECH BY**

**Minister Senzeni Zokwana (MP)**

**MANDELA DAY 2016**

Honourable MEC

Honourable Mayors

Amakhosi and their entourage

Chief Financial Officer of DAFF

Provincial Department of Agriculture Managers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon, sanibonani, molweni, ndi masiari, ri perile, dumelang, goeie middag

Firstly, I would like to thank the Mthonjaneni local municipality and the UThungulu District municipality for welcoming us in your province.

18 July is the day that UTata Madiba was recognised by the United Nations General Assembly and that day is called Nelson Mandela International Day to acknowledge the self sacrifice he has made for other people.

This day was inspired by a call made by UTata for the next generation to take their leadership role in society and transform it for the good of all. President Mandela said

*“As long as many of our people still live in utter poverty, as long as children still live under plastic covers, as long as many of our people are still without jobs, no South African should rest and wallow in the joy of freedom.”*

**Do you know that more than 14 million people go to bed hungry every day in this country and that 3,5 million of this number is in this province of Kwazulu Natal?** That is the reality that makes me sad. It also makes me more determined to eradicate poverty and ensure food security at a household level. I am inviting all who has access to productive arable land to go back and produce

food. Let's produce in home gardens, let's produce food in the community gardens and let's produce in our fields.

Food is an essential source of life and energy. It is within this context that my Department encourages individuals to engage in agricultural production and trade in the areas within provinces through cooperation and collaborations with other relevant stakeholders. Food security has thus become one of the country's priority areas with the overarching objective of encouraging diversified agricultural production within households and communities to improve food nutrition and safety nets as well as to stimulate sustainable economic activities.

We have also been battered by the drought that has affected South Africa and agricultural production. Government has given money to the Provinces to assist farmers with the effects of the drought. Water restrictions are also in place. My request to you is to use water sparingly.

Government placed high priority on establishing an explicit food security legislation which outlines a coherent ultimate goal to raise the nutritional levels of the population, particularly the more vulnerable members of society.

My Department will be assisting 67 households today.

These 67 households will receive vegetable garden starter packs, fruit trees, food hampers to promote agricultural production among households for a healthy and sustainable living.

We are also giving you agricultural tools and production inputs to promote participation in agricultural activities

We are giving food hampers and blankets to 67 indigent households as a gesture of solidarity with humanity which is the message of the Nelson Mandela Day.

Vegetable garden starter packs will include garden tools (Other activities planned for the day includes the planting of fruit trees, and helping households establish food gardens. DAFF together with provincial stakeholders such as KZNDARD, UThungulu District Municipality, and Mthonjaneni Local Municipality will take the

lead in coordinating the attendance of 2 000 people in various categories of Agriculture and Forestry sectors.

I will come back here to see that flourishing gardens where food can be harvested.

I see lots of young people here. We need you to be part of the food security solution. I will ask officials in agriculture to stand up and identify themselves so that you can contact them after this event.

Each one of us has a role to play to inspire each other to work for the good of all and transform our societies.

In conclusion, please remember what Tata Madiba said "It always seems impossible, until it is done." Those who are less fortunate than yourself need you.

Please join many responsible South Africans, go and vote on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

I thank you, Ndiyabulela.