



Honourable. MEC TP KaMadlopha – Mthethwa Remarks at the Cedara College of Agriculture Graduation Ceremony

DATE: 28 March 2025, Cedara College, uMngeni Local Municipality

GREETINGS

Programme Director

Principal of Cedara College of Agriculture

Mayors and deputy mayors of uMngungundlovu District and local municipalities

State Organs representatives

Head of Department, Mr ZN Dlamini

Agribusiness Development Agency

Chief Director of Agricultural Research Development and Training Institutes Dr Fikile Qwabe

Acting CEO - KZN Farming Enterprise

It is a great privilege to address future agricultural academics, thought leaders, and industry experts. Cedara College of Agriculture and Inkosi Owen Sithole College of Agriculture remain our flagship institutions, playing a vital role in shaping young minds in this field.

As future agriculturists, I encourage you to use your cutting-edge technology and innovative practices gained from this great institution to farm and establish your own businesses. While there are successful farmers who have achieved recognition without formal training in agricultural colleges, your skills and knowledge gained over three years of study will undoubtedly give you a competitive edge.

As government, we are committed to creating an enabling environment for our graduates to thrive. South Africa's low agricultural productivity is a concern that we aim to address through various programmes designed to increase yield and alleviate poverty. To achieve this, we are exploring the acquisition of a State-Owned Model Farm, which will showcase sustainable farming methods, provide employment opportunities, and promote agricultural innovation.

As agricultural graduates, you are at the forefront of combating poverty and food insecurity. I urge you to lead the way in developing innovative solutions to address these challenges and mitigate the impacts of climate change. With 282 million Africans facing food insecurity, it is important that you, as future industry experts,



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develop strategies to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich. Your expertise is crucial in shaping the future of agriculture in our country.

Ngale kwalokhu siyafuna ukuba nizingqaje ngemfundo nolwazi eniyithole lapha ezonenza nokwazi ukuqhudelana nontanga benu kulomkhakha. LoMnyango uhlinzeka ngemifundaze eyenza kube lula kubantwana abaphuma emindenini ehlwempu ukuba nabo bakwazi ukuba without emphakathini yabo. Anilenzanga iphutha nakancane ukuqoka umkhakha wezolimo. Ulwazi eniluthole lapha ke siyafuna ukuthi nilusebenzise ukuba nisisungulele amabhizinisi ezolimo. Ngiyafuna ukusho ukuthi njengabantu abawufundele lomkhakha akufanele nibe abasebenzi basemaplazini kepha kufanele nibe ngabaphathi bamabhizisi abo.

Siyaziqhenya ke njengoMnyango ukuthi sinika ithuba abafundi ukuba bafunde mahhala e Cedara nase OSCA, ngosizo lakwa AgriSeta njengoba ihlase ngenani lika R500 thousand ngonyaka, bese kuthi uMnyango weZolimo wahlinzeka ngo R700 thousand. I Sugar Trust Fund for Education ixhasa abafundi abayishumi unyaka nonyaka.

Kulezi zikhungo ezimbili okuyiOsca ne Cedara sibeke eceleni izigidi eziyisithupha u R6 million ukuxhasa abafundi abangu 120 bama learnerships.

The Cedara College of Agriculture is this year commemorating 120 years of existence, having produced numerous farmers, scholars, agricultural scientists, and agricultural experts who continue to shape the country's fortunes. We extend our gratitude to you for completing your agricultural studies and we are hopeful that it will undoubtedly position the country for success, and with your acquired skills and knowledge, you will bring much-needed stability to the sector. We look forward to engaging with you in the outside world. Ngiyathokoza Mqondisi Wohlelo.