KWAZULU-NATAL AGRICULTURE WINS TOP ACCOLADES IN TWO PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONIES

The KwaZulu-Natal meat industry has received a significant boost after securing top honours at the prestigious annual Agriculture Research Council (ARC) National Beef performers awards ceremony held last night. The ARC National KyD Province of the Year Award, sponsored by Molatek, recognised KwaZulu-Natal as the province with the highest number of participating farmers in the Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo (KyD) beef cattle scheme from March last year. The province emerged as a Platinum winner, surpassing Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga, which received gold and silver awards, respectively.

Reacting to the good news, MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has congratulated the province's meat producers, stating that her department and the broader government will continue to foster an enabling environment for the meat producers to thrive and encourage others to enter the industry. "This is one award that we cannot let slip from our fingers going forward, having most meat producers registered on INTERGIS is encouraging, and we must consolidate it and put measures in place that would enable new producers to produce quality beef to enter the market. As government, we will always work towards creating an enabling environment for our farmers to thrive. This accolade is a testament to the supportive environment and role created by government for our farmers' growth and prosperity."

At an alternative occasion, the 2025 National Batho Pele Awards at Emperor's Palace in Gauteng, the Department received two Bronze Awards. Thabiso Bhuti Nketu, an agricultural advisor, won the award for Best Front-Line Service Delivery, while Amajuba District secured the Best Implemented Project of the Year. KaMadlopha-Mthethwa congratulated both Mr Nketu and the district for their outstanding performance.

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT