MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA, JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS

17 December 2025

DISASTER RELIEF INTERVENTION TO RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN KZN FARMS FOLLOWING SEVERE NATURAL DISASTERS

The MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has responded swiftly to the plight of farmers left destitute in the wake of natural disasters across the province. The 2023/2024 disasters exposed the vulnerabilities of subsistence and smallholder farmers, who were affected. A much-needed intervention, spearheaded by the MEC, addresses the urgent needs of farmers whose livelihoods were severely impacted. Beneficiaries had submitted formal requests for reimbursement for damaged farming infrastructure, agricultural equipment and other related assistance.

Unprecedented weather extremes during the 2023–2024 period left a trail of destruction across KwaZulu-Natal's agricultural sector, as severe flooding, widespread veld fires, and destructive tornados caused extensive damage to farming infrastructure, resulted in significant economic losses, and severely disrupted agricultural production and operations throughout the province, leaving many farmers facing crippling losses and uncertain recovery prospects.

In response to the devastating impact of the 2023–2024 disasters, and as part of efforts to support affected farmers, the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, formally requested a Disaster Relief Grant to provide much-needed assistance to farmers across the province.

This intervention has since yielded positive results, with the National Treasury allocating R31.874 million to KwaZulu-Natal through a Provincial Disaster Recovery Grant. The funding is dedicated to the rehabilitation and rebuilding of agriculture-related infrastructure on farms affected by floods, veld fires, and tornados, forming a critical component of the province's recovery and resilience-building efforts.

The allocated funds will be utilised to support the restoration and development of critical on-farm infrastructure, including but not limited to:

* Tunnels
* Poultry houses
* Sheds and storage facilities
* Infield roads
* Irrigation infrastructure
* Fencing

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development remains committed to working closely with affected farmers and relevant stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of this relief programme and to support the long-term recovery and sustainability of the agricultural sector in KwaZulu-Natal.

Issued by: KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

ISITTIMENDE ESIBHEKISWE KWABEZINDABA

SIKHISHWE NGOMHLAKA 17 DISEMBA 2025

UMKHANKASO WOKUNGENELELA KUSIZWE AMAPLAZI AKHAHLAMEZWE YIZIMO ZEZULU EZINZULU

Umphathiswa wezoLimo nokuThuthukiwa kwemiPhakathi yeseMakhaya KwaZ-Natali uMhlonishwa Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa usesukumise okonyazi lwezulu ukubhekana nezinhlupheko zabalimi abasale dengwanne ngenxa yezimo zezulu ezixakile ezike zahlasela izingxednye ezihlune kwisifundazwe,

Lezizimo zokuphazamiseka ezenzeke phansi konyaka-mali ka 2023-24 zikuveze ngokusobala ukuphazamiseka kwamaplazi kanye nemboni yezolimo.

Uhlelo lokungenelela, oluholwa nguMphathiswa luhlose ukuthi lubuyisele izimpilo zabalimi abakhahlamezekile ukuthi bakwazi ukubuyela ensimini.

Labo abazohlomula kuloluhlelo yilabo abefake izicelo zokusizwa ukubuyisela izinsiza-kusebenza zabo ezilimalile emaplazini abo.

Izimo zezulu ebezingalindelekile ezinjengezikhukhula, ukuqubuka kwemililo yaamadlelo kanye nokuduma kwezulu (okuhambisana nenkanyamba) ezenzeke kwisifundazwe saKwaZulu-Natali ngonyaka-mali ka2023-24 kushiye ingqalasizinda yakaplazi ikhahlamezekile okudale umonakalo omkhulu kwezomnotho, ukuphazamiseka komkhiqizo okungase kukhubaze amaplazi unomphelo.

Njengemizamo yokungenelela kulesisimo, uMnyango wezoLimo nokuThuthukiswa kwemiPhakathi yaseMakhaya KwaZu-luNatal uholwa ngoMphathiswa Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa ukwazile ukucela umali yokungenelela ukulekela abalimi abathintekile ukuthi bakwazi ukubuyela ensimi.

Isicelo sakhe abesibhekise kuMnyango weZimali kuZwelonke sibuye nomphumela wesamba semali angu R31. 874 wezigidi oyisisibonelelo kubakimi abathintekile kusetshenziswa uhlelo lweProvincial Disaster Relief Grant.

Lemali etholakele kuzomele isetshenziselwe ukukwakha kabusha ingqalasizinda emaplazini akhahlamezwe yizikhukhula, imillo yamadlelo kanye nokuduma kwezulu okungajwalekile (okuhambisana nenkanyamba).

Ukusetshenziswa kwalemali kuzobheka kakhulukazi ukubiyiselwa kwezinziza-kusebenza ezinjengamathaneli, ukwakhiwa kabusha wezindlu zezinkuku, ukuvuselelwa kwemipheme kanye nezindlu zokubeka impahla, ukuvuselwa kwemigwaqo engaphakathi emaplazini kanye nokuvuselelwa kwengqalasizinda yokuchela kanye nokubiya.

Umnyango wezoLimo nokuThuthukiswa kweniPhakathi yaseMakhaya KwaZulu-Natali uzimisele ukusebenzisana nabalimi abahaqekile ukuqinisekisa ukuthi bayasizakala ukuze amaplazi abo ayabuyele esimweni lapho ezokwazi ukubuye asebenze ngendlala ahlelelwe yona ukuze kusimame imboni yezolimo esifundazweni.

Lesitatimende sikhishwe wuMnyango wezoLimo nokuThukiswa kwemiPhakathi yaseMakhaya KwaZulu-Natali.