

Bold job-creating agriculture plan for Gauteng

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture has developed a bold plan that will create more jobs for the province's unemployed women and youth, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) reports.

Gauteng Agriculture and Social Development MEC Nandi Mayathula-Khoza outlined the Labour Intensity in Agriculture Plan to reporters in Johannesburg on Monday, 23 April 2012.

The Labour Intensity in Agriculture Plan will use existing government programmes to divert labour to commercial farms, she said. This would be done through making interns, learners and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) employees available for commercial farms which use more labour intensive forms of agriculture such as organic farming. Soft loans will be available from developmental financial institutions, to promote the agro-processing sector.

The plan, Mayathula-Khoza said, "places the creation of decent work at the heart of the strategic choices and programmes of the province." It aims to create work within an inclusive sustainable economy. According to the GCIS, the majority of the unemployed people in the province were women and youth and the MEC strongly urged them to make use of the new plan.

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