



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA ADVISORY

MINISTER DIDIZA TO LEAD THE XWILI COMMUNITY LAND CLAIM CELEBRATION

20 MARCH 2024

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza (MP), will lead the Xwili community land claim celebration on Friday, 22 March 2024, at the Matyengqina Great Place outside Mthatha, Eastern Cape.

The Xwili community was dispossessed of their land through the apartheid government's Betterment Policy, according to which Africans were forcefully removed from their land and relocated to designated areas as part of the apartheid era spatial planning strategy.

The entire Xwili administrative area comprises 10 sub-villages, namely, China, Gwegwe, Lukhwethu, Mabheleni, Ematyeni, Ngqwala, Qolweni, Sowutini, Bhakaleni and Upper Xwili. The extent of the claimed land is approximately 4 304 hectares as per the mapping exercise.

Through the department's Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, the Xwili community's land claim was settled, with community members choosing to receive financial compensation. The commission has paid financial compensation in the settlement of phase 1 of the Xwili land claim, which will benefit 801 households and a total of 2 830 beneficiaries.

Members of the media are invited to cover the handover ceremony scheduled as follows:

Date: 22 March 2024
Venue: Matyengqina Great Place, Matyengqina Village, Mthatha
Time: 10:00

For media **RSVP** and further information on the event, please contact Ms Nozuko Sinxoto on 083 311 0823, email: Nozuko.Sinxoto@dalrrd.gov.za or Ms Thabile Mehlomakhulu on 063 617 7930, email: thabile.mehlomakhulu@dalrrd.gov.za.

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Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Media Liaison Officer : Mr Reggie Ngcobo
Cell : 066 298 0980
Email : MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za
Eviction Toll-free Number : 0800 007 095
Website : www.dalrrd.gov.za



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