

## Kwanalu, partners donate R5m in food aid following recent unrest

In response to the devastation caused by the recent unrest in KwaZulu-Natal's rural towns and communities, Kwanalu and its partners have distributed food donations to the value of R5m, feeding more than 500,000 people, and ensuring food security for a further 300,000 in the upcoming weeks.



Source: Supplied

Kwanalu and Agri SA amalgamated resources with WeareSouthAfricans and their partners, ReMAX SA, One Logix, Toyota Knights, various Round Tables and Hino Pietermaritzburg, to bring in more than five tonnes of donated food from Gauteng, nearly two tonnes of mielie meal donated by SenWes, four tonnes of food donated by Karino Farms Mpumalanga, through OrangeHearts (Citrus Growers Association), potatoes and onions from OneFarmShare (Hello Choice) and two tonnes of sugar from UCL Pty Ltd.

"Kwanalu has undertaken to restore value chains, address rural security and restore rural stability, on behalf of our members, to the rural communities surrounding our members' businesses. Added to this, our leaders in these towns are advancing on ideas on strengthening civil society to achieve stability and to stop the decay of these critical towns across the province," says Sandy la Marque, CEO of Kwanalu.



Survey reveals more than 55% of agricultural areas, rural towns in economic ruin

21 Jul 2021



During the unrest across the province, Kwanalu conducted a real-time survey amongst its members to assess the extent of the damage to farms, rural towns, and their surrounding communities. The survey revealed 31 rural towns suffered massive destruction, while a further 10 were left without food for their surrounding rural communities.

In response to the survey results, Kwanalu led a series of critical national interventions, together with Agri SA, to ensure that the impact on the province's agricultural value chain, future food security and rural stability could be minimised as quickly as possible.

"It quickly emerged that out of the 31 rural towns hit by the unrest, there were ten vulnerable towns needing critical assistance immediately. Together with the Agri SA Disaster Relief Foundation, we put plans in place to provide humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable rural communities in our province," says Dr Kathy Hurly, Kwanalu project manager.

"The resilience of the farming community and the spirit of philanthropy of our many partners, turned this disaster into an opportunity for assisting vulnerable communities resulting in a total of donations to the value of R5m," says Dr Hurly.

## **Rebuilding value chains**

"Re-building the decimated rural towns is not going to be easy but it does provide an opportunity to review how rural towns operate and to identify how safety, security and stability can be strengthened. The unrest of July 2021 has shown that the functioning of rural towns is critical to the survival of thousands of people in the deep rural areas of KZN," she says.

She continued that the affected towns are all dependent on external parties to provide their supplies including food, cash, and services.

"This tragedy must be used to strengthen the independence of rural towns, that the businesses of the townships and towns be better integrated ensuring solidarity into the future and that where business opportunities exist that these be investigated and funded to provide the much-needed jobs in rural areas," says Dr Hurly.

"Kwanalu has further developed a business plan aimed at supporting women and youth in rural businesses and entrepreneurship, and when training is combined with a business stimulus and business incubation, it can be used as a vehicle to reconstruct the 31 rural towns.

"Because it is aimed at the whole agriculture value chain, it can grow new farmers but more importantly provide a mechanism to link these farmers into local and new markets," concludes Dr Hurly.