

## ZWANE AWARDS BURSARIES TO DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

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Producing future farmers ... Agriculture MEC, Mosebenzi Zwane gave more than 100 bursaries to student studying at Glen College

### **The department has helped fund students studying at various tertiary institutions in the country**

Agriculture and Rural Development MEC, Mosebenzi Zwane, awarded bursaries to 106 disadvantaged Glen College students who are studying agriculture-related courses on an occasion that marked the commencement of the school's academic year and also to welcome new students.

Zwane said the department would be spending about R2.5-million to pay for the students' tuition; boarding fees and other relevant expenditure.

The MEC said the decision to fund the recipients' education was arrived at following an extensive background check, which eventually determined that they really needed financial assistance. Many students at the college come from disadvantaged backgrounds "I want the students to focus on their studies and not to stress about the financial dynamics of their families.

However, the department will withdraw the bursary from a student who forgets that they are at the college to learn. I do not want to see students going back home with babies. It is only a certificate that they have to show for their efforts," advised Zwane.

He encouraged the students to go back to their villages and farms to plough back the knowledge they had acquired at the college. The MEC also encouraged the students to help the elderly people use their fallow land productively

This is not the first time that the department has helped fund student's education. It has also assisted 49 agricultural students studying at various tertiary institutions.

# The Weekly

The president of the college's students' representative council, Pogisho Pudumo, said the college's student intake was a challenge, adding that the small size of the college limited students from excelling in extra-curricular activities.

The principal of the college, Lieketseng Taole-Kholisang revealed that the college has a total of 155 students after rejecting 268 applications this year owing to the limited space.

Meanwhile, the recipients of the bursaries expressed their delight at the opportunity they had been given by the provincial government. One of them, Lehlohonolo Hlohlongoane (23) completed his matric in 2009, and said he had waited patiently for his 'big break.'

He proclaimed that he had always been interested in studying agriculture, because he was raised by farming relatives who inspired his dream to build a family legacy from farming.

Another beneficiary, Mpho Muso (21), from Makeneng in QwaQwa, said she too grew up in a farming family, hence her passion for agriculture.

"My mother used to take me to the farm when I was young, so she actually moulded me into what I am. I would not have been able to pay the fees had it not been for the MEC's intervention."

The Bonsmara South Africa manager for development and training, Charl van Rooyen, said he trains farmers on cattle breeding.

"Black farming in the country is growing, but the problem is that they (black farmers) do not have capable mentors to show them the ropes. I have noticed a lot of potential in black farmers.

"There are thousands of black farmers who are eager to learn, but the problem is that they do not have enough funds to acquire farming equipment. They could go far if only could receive proper mentorship," added Van Rooyen.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]