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South Africa

"Urgent action is needed to prevent a food security crisis in rural KZN"

□ andrewaldrige · 2 days ago



The Democratic Alliance (DA) says an urgent intergovernmental effort is needed to avert a food security crisis in rural communities in KZN. The party says this should be accompanied by a targeted support program to help farmers who have suffered notable losses due to the damage inflicted on their farms during the recent unrest and riots.

Research by the KZN Agricultural Union (KWANALU) indicates that 64% of rural towns are already experiencing severe food shortages due to recent riots and unrest.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED FOR RURAL KZN

In a statement, the DA carried out a food security monitoring visit to rural KZN. Areas visited included eSikhaleni, Empangeni, Pongola, Nongoma, Dundee, Pomeroy, Tugela Ferry, Greytown, Mooi River and Howick.

"The total destruction of the two shopping centers in eSikhaleni has left thousands of people unemployed and people now dependent on Empangeni for food and other basic necessities.

"In Nongoma, only one grocery store managed to open and people were lining up outside town, with police controlling access to only 60 people at a time in town. "

The DA added that representatives of local farming communities said they not only set up roadblocks to protect towns from further looting, but were fighting fires that raged for several days to prevent them from causing more damage. other damage to their agricultural activities.

The KZN government has said it believes the unrest will affect eThekweni in the following ways:

- Loss of stock of over 1.5 billion rand;
- Damage to property and equipment in excess of R15 billion;
- Over 50,000 informal traders affected;
- Over 40,000 businesses affected;
- Over 150,000 jobs are at risk today.
- Preliminary estimates suggest that the impact on eThekweni's GDP will be around R20 billion.

READ: Zikalala: "The economy of KZN will take time to recover from the riots"

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Source"Urgent action is needed to prevent a food security crisis in rural KZN"