

# Farm co-ownership pilot project launched in KZN

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Andrew Hill via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The pilot project, which was unveiled at the Westcliffe Farm near Greytown outside Pietermaritzburg, was to have been officially launched by President Jacob Zuma. However, Zuma did not make it to the event because he had to attend the funeral of the late liberation struggle veteran and ANC leader in exile, Qethu Mdluli, who was buried in Bergville.

Instead, the event was officiated by rural development and land reform minister Gugilwe Nkwinti who said the project will be used as a “school where other people will learn from.”

Nkwinti first announced the introduction of the 50/50 policy framework in 2014 as part of efforts to ensure farm workers benefit from owning shares in the farms on which they work as well as providing them with security of tenure. Early last year, Zuma announced that 50 pilot projects testing the 50/50 policy would be rolled out around the country.

The 514ha Westcliffe Farm has 270ha sugar cane, 140ha timber and a 10ha irrigated cabbage operation. Former owner Andrew Braithwaite, who will now be co-owning a new farm called Khamanzi Farming Project, said land was a very emotional topic in SA “and we’ve been shown how not to deal with it by our northern neighbour” — in reference to

Zimbabwe's chaotic land reform system.

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