Mediaverklaring

15 Junie 2018

Landbou D.G.: "Produktiewe landbougrond sal nie gevat word nie"

Agri SA het kennis geneem van Mnr. Mike Mlengana, die Direkteur-Generaal van die Departement van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye, se kommentaar dat die regering geen bedoeling het om produktiewe landbougrond te onteien nie. Mlengana het dit tydens 'n beraad oor plaasmoorde, -aanvalle en veediefstal gesê.

"'n Aanval op die landbougemeenskap, is 'n aanval op voedselsekerheid en op die doelstellings van die regering om die ekonomie te ontwikkel" sê Mlengana. "Die landbousektor maak 'n bydrae tot die ontwikkeling van die land".

Mnr. Kobus Breytenbach, die voorsitter van Agri SA se Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid: Landelike Veiligheid, het sy waardering vir hierdie erkenning uitgespreek.

"Dit is vanselfsprekend dat die landbougemeenskap effektief beskerm moet word omdat nagenoeg 34 000 boere en hul plaaswerkers die kos aan sowat 55 miljoen mense daagliks voorsien" sê Breytenbach.

Intussen sê Mnr. Boeta du Toit, die vise-voorsitter van Agri SA se Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid: Landelike Veiligheid dat daar nie 'n beraad gehou kan word, sonder om daadwerklike aksies in te stel nie.

"Daar is 'n gebrek aan effektiwiteit, wat implementering van beleid, die beskerming van boerderygemeenskappe en die ontwikkeling van landbou kniehalter. Verskeie departemente en ander staatinstellings slaag nie daarin om hulle beleidsverantwoordelikheid na te kom nie, en dit moet dringend aangespreek word".

"Die regering kan nie in sy doelstellings slaag om die land te ontwikkel sonder die privaatsektor se investering nie. Die landbousektor se bydrae is daarom belangrik om ekonomiese groei te stimuleer", sê Mnr. Mike Mlengana.

Breytenbach sê ten slotte: "Daar moet erkenning gegee word aan die landbougemeenskap se bydrae om veiliger gemeenskappe te skep, hulle betrokkenheid by plaaslike georganiseerde landbou en hulle samewerking met die polisie om landelike veiligheid te bevorder".

Agri SA sal voortgaan om met die regering te skakel rakende die belang van landelike veiligheid.

Navrae:
Kobus Breytenbach: Voorsitter: Agri SA Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid: Landelike Veiligheid; 083 631 6844
Boeta du Toit: Vise-voorsitter: Agri SA Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid: Landelike Veiligheid; 082 388 1722

Media release

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AGRICULTURE D.G.: “PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND WILL NOT BE TAKEN”

Agri SA take notice of comments made by Mr Mike Mlengana, the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, that the government has no intention of expropriating productive agricultural land. Mlengana said this during a summit about farm murders, farm attacks and stock theft.

"An attack on the agricultural community, is an attack on food security and the government's objectives to develop the economy", Mlengana said. “The agricultural sector contributes to development in and of the country”.

Mr. Kobus Breytenbach, the chairman of Agri SA's Centre for Excellence: Rural Safety, expressed his appreciation for this recognition.

"It goes without saying that the agricultural community must be effectively protected, as nearly 34 000 farmers and their farm workers provide food to almost 55 million people daily," Breytenbach said.

However, Boeta du Toit, vice-chairman of Agri SA's Center for Excellence: Rural Safety says that a summit can’t be held, if there is not real action being taken.

“There is a lack of effectiveness, which prohibits the implementation of policies, the protection of farming communities and the development of farmers. Various departments and other state institutions fail to comply with their policy responsibility and this must be addressed urgently".

"The government cannot succeed in achieving its goals without the private sector's investment. The agricultural sector's contribution is therefore important to stimulate economic growth” said Mr Mike Mlengana.

In conclusion, Breytenbach says: "We must acknowledge the contribution of the agricultural community by creating safer communities, their involvement in local organised agriculture and their cooperation with the police to promote rural security."

Agri SA will continue to engage with government regarding the importance of rural safety.

Queries:

Kobus Breytenbach: Chairman: Agri SA Centre of Excellence: Rural Safety; 083 631 6844
Boeta du Toit: Vice Chairman: Agri SA Centre of Excellence: Rural Safety; 082 388 1722