Agri SA

Mediaverklaring / Media Release

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Agri SA herbevestig sy posisie oor hidrouliese breking in Suid-Afrika
Agri SA re-affirms its position on hydraulic fracturing in South Africa

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Tydens ‘n geleentheid wat vandag deur die Nasionale Persklub in Pretoria gereël is, het Agri SA sy posisie ten opsigte van hidrouliese breking vir skaliegas-ontginning in die Karoo en elders in Suid-Afrika herbevestig.

In sy sterkste uitspraak, oor die onderwerp tot dusvêr, het die President van Agri SA, Johannes Möller, gesê dat gegewe die oorblywende onsekerhede oor watervoorsiening en besoedelingsaangeleenthede wat verband hou met skaliegas-ontwikkeling deur middel van onkonvensionele eksplorasie- en produksietegnieke in die vorm van hidrouliese breking, Agri SA nie tans die regering se voortgesette pogings in hierdie verband kan ondersteun nie.

Mnr Möller het beklemtoon dat Agri SA nietemin verbind bly tot steun aan die regering om ekonomiese ontwikkeling in Suid-Afrika te verseker.

Agri SA se provinsiale affiliasie in KwaZulu-Natal het onlangs interdikte in Pretoria se Hooggeregshof verkry om die Petroleumvereniging van Suid-Afrika (PASA) te verbied om die onderskeie aansoeke vir ‘n eksplorasiereg en ‘n tegniese permit aan Rhino Oil and Gas Exploration South Africa (Pty) Ltd toe te staan. Die betrokke gebied beslaan in totaal 1,6 miljoen hektaar en 15 000 plase in daardie provinsie.

Die probleem met die toestaan van tegniese samewerkingspermitte en eksplorasieregte vir skaliegas ingevolge Suid-Afrika se Wet op die Ontwikkeling van Minerale en Petroleum Hulpbronne is dat dit die houers van sodanige regte die ekslusiewe reg gee om aansoek te doen vir produksieregte en om sodanige regte te verkry, sê Agri SA se hoof van Natuurlike Hulpbronne, Janse Rabie. Daarom sou dit onwys wees om nie vanaf die begin ‘n posisie oor hierdie kwessie in te neem nie, wetend dat regte wat vandag verkry word reeds die houers van sodanige regte mag toelaat om in die toekoms voort te gaan met volskaalse produksie.

Gegewe Suid-Afrika se bedenklike watersituasie en die bedreiging vir voedselsekerheid indien die risiko’s verbonde aan hidrouliese breking en skaliegas-ontwikkeling sou materialiseer, is Agri SA van mening dat hierdie aangeleentheid in Suid-Afrika met uiterste versigtigheid benader moet word.

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AGRI SA RE-AFFIRMS ITS POSITION ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN SOUTH AFRICA

At an event arranged by the National Press Club in Pretoria today, Agri SA reaffirmed its position regarding hydraulic fracturing for shale gas in the Karoo and elsewhere in South Africa.

In its strongest statement on the topic to date, Johannes Möller, President of Agri SA, said that given the remaining uncertainties with respect to water supply and contamination issues associated with shale gas development using unconventional exploration and production techniques in the form of hydraulic fracturing, Agri SA cannot support Government's continued pursuit of this venture at present.

Mr Möller emphasized that Agri SA remains committed to assisting Government in ensuring the economic development of South Africa.

Agri SA's provincial affiliate in KwaZulu-Natal recently obtained interdicts in the Pretoria High Court preventing the Petroleum Association of South Africa (PASA) from granting respective applications for an exploration right and a technical cooperation permit, together covering in excess of 1,6 million hectares and 15 000 farms in that province, to Rhino Oil and Gas Exploration South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The issue with the granting of technical cooperation permits and exploration rights for shale gas in terms of South Africa's Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act is that they give the holders of such rights the exclusive right to apply for and be granted production rights, said Agri SA's Head of Natural Resources, Janse Rabie. It would therefore be imprudent not to take a position on this issue right from the outset, knowing that rights obtained today may already entitle the holders of such rights to continue with full-scale production in the future.

Given South Africa's precarious water position and the threat to food security should the clear risks associated with hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development materialize, Agri SA maintains that this endeavor in South Africa must be approached with the utmost caution.

Issued by Agri SA, Directorate: Corporate Liaison

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