Agri SA

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Privaatsak / Private Bag X180 Centurion 0046, Tel +27 (0)12 643 3400, Faks/ Fax +27 (0)12 663 3178

Agri SA sê NEE vir grondbesettings
Agri SA says NO to land invasions

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“Daar was onlangs heelwat politieke retoriek oor grondbesettings wat ons voel baie onverantwoordelik is”, sê Johannes Moller. Dit is noodsaaklik dat ons die impak van sodanige retoriek en die uitwerking daarvan op voedselsekerheid en die algehele stabiliteit van die sektor verstaan. Eerstens is hierdie stellings strydig met die bepalings van die Grondwet wat voorsiening maak vir ordelike grondhervorming.

“In Zimbabwe het ons die verwoesting gesien wat gepaardgaan met grondbesettings en waar dit nie net enorme onsekerheid vanuit ‘n beleggingsperspektief veroorsaak nie maar ook diegene wat ‘n lewe uit die grond maak in ‘n armoede-situasie laat beland waar hulle hulself nie kan voed of ‘n bestaan kan maak nie”, sê Ernest Pringle, voorsitter van Agri SA se beleidskomitee oor landbou-ontwikkeling. Die waardeketting as geheel begin met die boere en maak nagenoeg 3% van ons land se BNP uit. Waar die produksiebasis verkrummel, word duisende werksgeleenthede bedreig. Daar is ‘n nou skakeling tussen finansiële stelsels, landbou-veiligheid en belegging. Waar die primêre stukkie van hierdie legkaart beïnvloed word, ly die res”, sê Pringle.

“Ons moet hierdie aangeleenthede op ‘n baie verantwoordelike en volwasse wyse benader”, sê Möller. “Ons is bereid om met enige party te praat ten einde oplossings te vind vir die transformasie van die sektor en die vestiging van suksesvolle nuwe kommersiële boere. Ons werk nou saam met die Departement van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye en die Departement van Landelike-ontwikkeling en Grondhervorming om projekte te loods en het reeds verskeie suksesse in hierdie verband behaal. Grond as sodanige beteken nie veel sonder die nodige kapitaal en vaardighede om ‘n besigheid te ontwikkel wat winsgewend sowel as volhoubaar is nie. Daarom is ons die enigste land in sub-Sahara-Afrika wat voedselsekerheid geniet en ons kan nie waag om met ons suksesvolle formule te torring nie”, aldus Pringle.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Navrae
Mnr Johannes Möller, President Agri SA, 082 647 8481
Mnr Ernest Pringle, Voorsitter van Agri SA se Beleidskomitee oor Landbou-ontwikkeling, 087 803 599

Agri SA says NO to land invasions

“Recently there have been a lot of political rhetoric about land invasions that we feel is very irresponsible”, Johannes Möller said. It is critical that we understand the impact of such rhetoric and the effect it could have on food security and the overall stability of the sector. Firstly, these statements conflict with the provisions of our constitution that provides for orderly land reform.

“As in Zimbabwe we have seen the utter devastation that accompanies the effects of land invasions, where it not only creates massive insecurity from an investment perspective, but it leaves those who are on the land in a poverty trap situation where they cannot fend or feed themselves”, Ernest Pringle, chairman of Agri SA’s policy committee on agricultural development remarked. The entire value chain starts with farmers and constitutes approximately 3% of our countries’ GDP. Where the production base is eroded thousands of jobs will be at risk. Financial systems, agricultural safety and investment is intricately connected. Where the primary piece of this puzzle is affected the rest suffers, Pringle remarked.

“We need to approach these matters in a very responsible and mature manner”, Möller mentioned. “We are willing to engage with any party in designing solutions for the transformation of the sector and the creation of successful new commercial farmers. We are working closely with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to pilot some schemes and we’ve had several successes in this regard. Land itself does not mean much without the capital and skills to develop a business that is both profitable and sustainable. Therefore, we are the only country in Sub-Sahara Africa that is food secure, and we dare not mess with our success formula”, Pringle remarked.

Issued by Agri SA, Directorate: Corporate Liaison

Enquiries
Mr Johannes Möller, President Agri SA, 082 647 8481
Mr Ernest Pringle, Chairman of Agri SA’s Policy Committee on Agricultural Development, 087 803 599