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 teleurgesteld dat regering nog nie lig gesien het oor grondplafonne nie
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Die uitlatings oor beperkings op grondbesit oftewel grondplafonne en buitelandse eienaarskap wat President Zuma gisteraand in sy staatsrede gemaak het, is niks nuuts nie, het Johannes Möller, president van Agri SA in Upington gesê.

“Die debat het reeds in 2011 begin met die publikasie van die Groenskrif op Grondhervorming, en Agri SA het van meet af aan, sterk standpunt teen die instel van sodanige beperkings ingeneem,” het hy gesê. “Agri SA het oor ‘n vier jaar tydperk deelgeneem aan werkgroepe waar daar intens oor die voorgestelde grondplafonne en beperkings op buitelandse eienaarskap gedebatteer is en Agri SA het sterk ekonomiese en praktiese argumente geopper waarom die voorstelle onaanvaarbaar is. Daar is ook verslae deur kundiges ingewin, sommige waarvoor ook die moontlike negatiewe gevolge van grondplafonne duidelik uitgespel het. So stelsel is duur en moeilik om te administreer, redelik maklik om te omseil en daar is ook ernstige vraagtekens oor die grondwetlikheid van die voorstelle.

Internasionale ervaring wys daarop dat die instel van grondplafonne onder andere lei tot die fragmentering van landbou-eenhede, ‘n negatiewe impak op produksie het, neutraal of selfs negatiewe impakte op armoede-verligting het, ‘n negatiewe impak het op die verhuring van landbougrond en investering in grond teenwerk. Dit is die laaste ding wat ons nou nodig het wanneer ons land deur die ergste droogte in meer as ‘n honderd jaar geteister word,” het Möller gesê.

Hy het bygevoeg dat Agri SA enige wetgewing met ‘n fynkam sal deurgaan wanneer dit vrygestel word, sal aanhou insette maak, maar nie sal huiwer om die Konstitusionele hof te nader sou die wetgewing blyk ongrondwetlik te wees nie.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Navrae
Mnr Johannes Möller, President Agri SA, 082 647 8481
Me Annelize Crosby, Adviseur Regs- en Grondsake, Parlementêre Skakeling, Agri SA, 082 388 0017

Agri SA disappointed that government has not yet seen the light on land ceilings

The utterances by President Zuma during his state of the nation speech regarding land ceilings and a ban on foreign ownership, is nothing new, said Johannes Möller, president of Agri SA, in Upington.

"The debate started in 2011 with the publication of the Green Paper on Land Reform and Agri SA took of strong stance against such measures from the outset", he said. "Agri SA participated, over a period of four years in working groups where the proposed restrictions on land ownership and foreign ownership were debated in depth and Agri SA put forward strong economic and practical arguments as to why these should not be implemented. Expert opinions were also sought, some of which clearly spelt out the possible negative impacts of the proposed measures. Land ceilings require an expensive system of implementation, it will be difficult to administer, is relatively easy to circumvent and there were questions marks regarding the constitutionality of the proposed measures.

International experience has shown that the introduction of land ceilings caused the fragmentation of agricultural units, had a negative impact on production, had a neutral or even negative impact on poverty alleviation, and negatively impacted on rental markets as well as on investment in land. This is the last thing we need now that the country is experiencing the worst drought in over a hundred years" Möller said.

He added that Agri SA will thoroughly scrutinise the legislation when it is published and will keep on giving its inputs. However Agri SA will also not hesitate to approach the Constitutional Court should the organisation deem the proposed legislation to be unconstitutional.

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Enquiries
Mr Johannes Möller, President Agri SA, 082 647 8481
Ms Annelize Crosby, Advisor Legal and Land Affairs, Parliamentary Liaison, Agri SA, 082 388 0017