

Agri SA

Mediaverklaring / Media Release

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Agri SA veroordeel Elsenburg kampusgeweld **AGRI SA CONDEMNS VIOLENCE ON ELSENBURG CAMPUS**

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Agri SA veroordeel Elsenburg kampusgeweld

Daar moet onmiddellik 'n einde gemaak word aan die wanorde en destruktiewe optrede wat toegelaat word by Elsenburg Landboukollege.

Die wanorde wat op Dinsdag, 1 September 2015 op die kampus van die Elsenburg Landboukollege uitgebreek het, moet voor die deur van die kollege se topbestuur gelê word wat sedert die uitbreek van betogings oor die taalkwessie op 13 Augustus 2015 glad nie daarin kon slaag om 'n handjievol ongelukkige studente te bestuur en die situasie te ontfont nie.

Dit is verder onaanvaarbaar dat persone wat nie ingeskrewe student aan die kollege is nie, toegang tot die kampus kan kry en kan deelneem aan aksies waar studente aangerand, geïntimideer en hul veiligheid bedreig word.

Alle studente is reeds met hulle toelating tot die kollege van die taalbeleid ingelig, en die situasie moes dienooreenkomstig bestuur word.

Swak besluitneming en politieke opportuniste het nou daartoe gelei dat studente op die kampus se veiligheid en akademiese opleiding daaronder ly.

Die kollege-bestuur moet dringend optree met ingrepe om orde te herstel en studenteveiligheid te verseker. 'n Gesonde klimaat vir onderrig moet herstel word.

Daar sal ook indringend herbesin moet word oor die inspraak van georganiseerde landbou en ouers binne die kollege-raad om oor kwaliteit opleiding en die veiligheid van die studente te beding.

Agri Wes-Kaap het 'n dringende vergadering met die SAPD versoek om uitklaring te kry oor die polisie se mandaat wanneer dit kom by optrede op sogenaamde "privaatgrond" en hulle rol en mandaat om kriminele optrede te bekamp.

Die basiese beskerming van alle landsburgers val binne die grondwetlike opdrag aan die SAPD.

Die meerderheid studente op die kampus is ernstig oor hulle toekoms en wil 'n sukses van hulle studies maak. Ons vertrou dat alle belanghebbendes hul verantwoordelikhede sal nakom ten einde die situasie so spoedig moontlik te normaliseer.

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AGRI SA CONDEMNS VIOLENCE ON ELSENBURG CAMPUS

The chaos and destructive behaviour at Elsenburg Agricultural College must immediately come to an end.

The chaos that erupted on Tuesday, 1 September 2015 on the campus of Elsenburg Agricultural College can be blamed on the top management of the campus who, since the onset of protest action over the language issue on 13 August 2015, have failed to manage a handful of discontented students and defuse the situation.

It is further unacceptable that people who are not registered with the college obtained access to the campus and participated in actions where students were assaulted, intimidated and their safety threatened.

All students were informed of the language policy on being admitted to the college. The matter should have been managed accordingly.

Poor decision-making and political opportunism have now resulted in the safety of students on campus and academic training being jeopardised.

The college management must act urgently, including intervening to restore order and ensure the safety of students. A climate suitable for conducting training should be restored.

It is also important to reconsider the role that organised agriculture and parents can play within the college council to negotiate for quality training and the safety of students.

Agri Western Cape has called for an urgent meeting with SAPS to seek clarity regarding the police's mandate when it comes to action on so-called 'private land' and their role in curbing criminal conduct. The basic protection of all citizens falls within the constitutional responsibility of SAPS.

The majority of students on the campus are serious about their future and want to make a success of their studies. We hope that all stakeholders will meet their responsibilities in order to normalise the situation as soon as possible.

Issued by Agri SA, Directorate: Corporate Liaison

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