Agri SA

Mediaverklaring / Media Release

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

Beweerde onreëlmatige, verkwistende en korrupte praktyke in verband met nasionale droogtehulpfondse wat toegeken is aan droogte-geteisterde provinsies gedurende 2016
ALLEGED IRREGULAR, WASTEFUL AND CORRUPT PRACTICES RELATED TO NATIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS AWARDED TO DROUGHT STRICKEN PROVINCES DURING 2016

1 Junie/June 2017

Beweerde onreëlmatige, verkwistende en korrupte praktyke in verband met nasionale droogtehulpfondse wat toegeken is aan droogte-geteisterde provinsies gedurende 2016

In 2016 het Suid-Afrika die gevolge van die ergste droogte in dekades in die gesig gestaar. Ses provinsies is as rampgebiede verklaar, naamlik KwaZulu-Natal, Vrystaat, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Noordwes en die Noord-Kaap, terwyl slegs sekere distriksmunisipaliteite in twee provinsies (Wes-Kaap en Oos-Kaap) as rampgebiede verklaar is. Die droogte het aanleiding gegee tot ernstige graantekorte, geforseerde veeverkope en veevrektes, met ‘n negatiewe impak op die finansiële stabiliteit van boere oor die geaffekteerde gebiede heen.

Gedurende die 2016-droogte het Agri SA, as ‘n verantwoordelike lede-gebaseerde organisasie, pro-aktief opgetree en ‘n taakspan aangestel om te kyk na die erge gevolge van die droogte en, tesame met die industrie rolspelers, vorendag gekom met oplossings en versagtende maatreëls.

‘n Droogtetaakspan (DTT) is gestig bestaande uit Agri SA, die Land Bank, Agbiz, African Farmers’ Association of SA (Afasa), Transvaalse Landbou-unie SA (TLU SA); die Departement van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye (DAFF), Nasionale rampbestuursentrum (NDMC), SA Grain Milling, Nywerheidontwikkelingskorporasie (IDC); Bankevereniging SA (BASA), Graan SA en ander kommersiële banke.

Die DTT het verskeie kere vergader, onder andere tussen November 2015 en Maart 2016. Die DTT het ook die SA Droogte-mediakonferensie op 22 Februarie 2016 in Kaapstad aangebied en ‘n verdere mediakonferensie tesame met die Suid-Afrikaanse Konfederasie van Landbou-unies (SACAU) op 1 Maart 2016 waar daar gefokus is op die droogtesituasie binne SADC.

Lede van die DTT het verskeie privaat vergaderings gehou met die Direkteur-Generaal van DAFF asook die Minister van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye (2016/01/12; 2016/02/10; 2016/07/18; 2016/10/06; 2016/11/08; 2016/11/15) om die dringendheid van finansiële hulp te bespreek. DTT-lede was ook teenwoordig by Minister Zokwana se mediavergadering in Januarie 2016 waar hy belanghebbendes ingelig het oor die droogtemaatreëls. Agri SA het ook deelgeneem aan DAFF se Nasionale Droogte-indaba in September 2016 waar ons weer die erns van die droogte en die behoefte aan finansiële hulp beklemtoon het.

Agri SA, in sy eie hoedanigheid, het verskeie formele en informele versoeke aan die Minister van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye, die Minister van Finansies, asook die DG van DAFF gerig, sonder sukses.

Ten spyte van dringende versoeke wat die DTT gerig het aan die regering om ‘n vennootskap aan te gaan ten einde droogteverligting-voorrade en humanitêre hulp op die mees effektiewe en doeltreffende wyse by geaffekteerde landbougemeenskappe oor die land heen te kry, het die regering hierdie versoeke ignoreer.

Dit het gelei tot vele uitdagings soos gelys in die konsep 2016/17 Droogteskema-verslag wat onlangs deur DAFF vrygestel is. Dit sluit in die aanstelling van diensverskaffers sonder rekords van vorige dienslewering; diensverskaffers wat geskors is weens swak prestasie; diensverskaffers wat hul dienslewerингsplan verander sonder vooraf konsultasie met DAFF of PDA; beperkte praktiese hulpverlening deur provinsies; baie stadige vordering weens gebrek aan gereedheid deur diensverskaffers, onbeskikbaarheid en veranderende

bergingsfasiliteite, grootskaalse diefstal van sakke voerpille, ondoeltreffende en foutiewe afleweringsvoertuie, oor- of onderlewering van veevoer in sekere distrikte, geen hulp aan kommersiële en kleinskaalse boere in sommige provinsies, aflewering van die verkeerde voer, gebrek aan toereikende kommunikasie gedurende implementering, asook onopgedateerde boereregisters.

Agri SA het ondersoek ingestel na hoe droogtehulpfondse op provinsiale vlak bestee word. 'n Skokkende prentjie is geskilder van blatante gebrek aan goeie beheer- en bestuursbeginsels wat enige regeringsprojek behoort te rig.

Die Openbare Beskermer, Ouditeur-Generaal en SCOPA is gevra om die droogtehulpproses as geheel te ondersoek ten einde onreëlmatige, verkwistende en korrupte praktyke te identifiseer.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Navrae

Mnr Johannes Möller, President Agri SA, 082 647 8481
Mnr Omri van Zyl, Uitvoerende Direkteur, Agri SA, 012-643 3400 of 082 417 5724

ALLEGED IRREGULAR, WASTEFUL AND CORRUPT PRACTICES RELATED TO NATIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS AWARDED TO DROUGHT STRICKEN PROVINCES DURING 2016

In 2016, South Africa faced the effects of the most serious drought in decades. Six provinces were declared disaster areas, [KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West and the Northern Cape] whilst in two, [Western and Eastern Cape] only specific district municipalities were declared disaster areas. The drought resulted in severe grain shortages, forced livestock sales, loss of livestock life and a negative impact on the financial stability of farmers across the affected areas.

During the 2016 drought, Agri SA as a responsible membership based organization, pro-actively acted and commissioned a task team to look at the devastating effects of the drought, and with industry participants, came up with solutions and mitigation measures.

A Drought Task Team (DTT) consisting of Agri SA, the Land Bank, Agbiz, African Farmers' Association of SA (Afasa), the Transvaal Agricultural Union SA (TAU SA); Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC); SA Grain Milling; Industrial Development Corporation (IDC); Banking Association SA (BASA), Grain SA and other commercial banks was established.

The DTT held various meetings *inter alia* since November 2015 until March 2016. The DTT also held a SA Drought Media Conference on 22 February 2016 in Cape Town and a further media conference, in conjunction with the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), on 1 March 2016, focusing on the drought situation in SADC.

Members of the DTT had numerous private meetings with the Director General of DAFF as well as the Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (2016/01/12; 2016/02/10; 2016/07/18; 2016/10/06; 2016/11/08; 2016/11/15) to discuss the urgency of financial assistance. Members of the DTT attended Minister Zokwana's media briefing where he informed stakeholders of the drought relief measures in January 2016. We also participated in DAFF's National Drought Indaba in September 2016 where again we emphasised the seriousness of the drought and the need for financial assistance.

Agri SA in its own capacity addressed numerous formal and informal requests to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister of Finance as well as the DG of DAFF but to no avail.

Despite concerted requests by the DTT directed to government to establish a partnership in order to get drought relief supplies and humanitarian aid in the most effective and efficient way to distressed agricultural communities all over the country, government continued to ignore these requests.

This resulted in numerous challenges as listed in the Draft 2016/17 Drought Scheme Report recently released by DAFF. These include appointment of service providers with no track records, service providers being expelled due to poor performance, service providers changing delivery plans without prior engagement with DAFF or PDA, limited hands-on support by provinces, very slow pace due to lack of readiness by service providers, non-availability and changing of storage facilities, large scale theft of bags of feed pellets, inefficient and faulty delivery vehicles, over and under delivery of animal feed in particular districts, no assistance to commercial and small scale farmers in some provinces, delivery of wrong feeds, lack of adequate communication during implementation as well as outdated farmer registers.

Agri SA has also done an investigation into how drought relief funding was spent at provincial level. It paints a shocking picture of blatant disregard for good governance and management principles that should underpin any government project.

The Public Protector, Auditor-General and SCOPA was informed to investigate the entire drought relief process to unearth any irregular, wasteful and corrupt practices.

Issued by Agri SA, Directorate: Corporate Liaison

Enquiries
Mr Johannes Möller, President Agri SA, 082 647 8481
Mr Omri van Zyl, Executive Director, Agri SA, 012-643 3400 or 082 417 5724