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Grond – dis nie sommer net vir vat nie…
Land – not simply for the taking…

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Grond – dis nie sommer net vir vat nie…

Adjunk-minister, Mcebisi Skwatsha het, na bewering gister tydens 'n vergadering van die Portefeuljekomitee op Landelike Ontwikkeling en Grondhervorming, gesê dat die ANC in Maart 'n konferensie oor onteiening sonder vergoeding sal hou en dat onteiening sonder vergoeding daarna deur alle relevante staatsdepartemente geïmplementeer sal word. Hy is aangehaal om te sê dat die ANC sal bepaal wie se grond hulle sal vat en hoe hulle dit sal doen. Dit is egter nie sommer net vir vat nie, het Mnr Ernest Pringle, voorsitter van Agri SA se grond sentrum van uitnemendheid gesê. Dit is ook nie 'n besluit wat die ANC op hulle eie kan neem en dan eenvoudig begin uitvoer nie.

Geen onteiening sonder vergoeding kan plaasvind tensy die Grondwet gewysig word nie, het Pringle gesê. En dit sal 'n tydrowende proses wees waaroor daar omvattend gekonsulteer sal moet word en die nodige meerderheid van stemme in die Parlement ten gunste daarvan uitgebring moet word. Privaat eiendomsreg is 'n internasionaal erkende beginsel, wat beskerm word deur die meeste internasionale menseregte-handveste, byvoorbeeld artikel 17 van die Verenigde Nasies se Universele Verklaring van Menseregte. Die dreigemente van onteiening sonder vergoeding bots ook lynreg met beleid van belangrike instansies soos die Wêreldbank en die Internasionale Monetêre Fonds. Die ekonomiese gevolge van grond "vat", sal katastrofies wees, soos wat verskeie ekonome reeds uitgewys het. Die arm mense sal die swaarste deur die gevolge van so onverantwoordelike stap getref word, het Pringle bygevoeg.

"Hierdie tipe uitlatings deur politici, speel in die hand van opportuniste wat dit graag as verskoning wil gebruik om grond te beset. Dit is uiters gevaarlik."

Pringle het ook daarop gewys dat geweldige verwagtinge geskep word rondom die kwessie van onteiening sonder vergoeding, wat ook polities kan boemerang. "Het enige-iemand al gedink, wat gaan gebeur nadat grond gevat is? Aan wie gaan dit gegee word, wie gaan toegang

geweier word en waar gaan die kapasiteit skielik vandaan kom om die mense wat die grond kry te ondersteun om dit produktief te gebruik"?", het hy gevra.

Agri SA doen 'n beroep op Mnr Ramaphosa om die organisasie en die publiek so gou moontlik in sy vertroue te neem oor presies wat beoog word. Agri SA het nog geen uitnodiging ontvang om 'n konferensie in Maart hieroor by te woon nie. Agri SA is 'n kritiese rolspeler in hierdie debat en sal graag met die ANC leierskap hieroor debat wil voer, het Pringle gesê.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

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Land – not simply for the taking…

Deputy Minister Mcebisi Skwatsha reportedly said yesterday during a meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Rural Development and Land Reform that the ANC would hold a conference in March to discuss expropriation without compensation and that the decision would afterwards be implemented by all relevant state departments. He was cited as saying that the ANC would determine whose land to take and how it would be done. However, Mr Ernest Pringle, chair of Agri SA's land centre of excellence, said land would not be simply for the taking. This was also not a decision that the ANC can take unilaterally and simply start implementing.

No expropriation without compensation can take place unless the Constitution is amended, said Pringle. This will be a time-consuming process during which wide consultation must take place and which would require the necessary majority of votes in Parliament in favour thereof. Private property rights are an internationally recognised principle that is protected by international human rights instruments, such as article 17 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, the treats of expropriation without compensation is contrary to the policies adopted by vital international agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF. The economic impact of "taking" land will be catastrophic, as already pointed out by various economists. The poor will be affected worst by the outcome of such an irresponsible step, added Pringle.

"This type of statement issued by politicians plays into the hands of opportunists who want to use it as an excuse to invade land. It is extremely dangerous."

Pringle also pointed out that enormous expectations were being created around the issue of land reform without compensation, which could also boomerang politically. "Has anyone thought what would happen after land has been taken? To whom will it be given; who will be denied access, and where will the capacity suddenly come from to assist those who receive land to use it productively?"

Agri SA called on Mr Ramaphosa to take the organisation and the public into his confidence as soon as possible regarding what exactly is being envisaged. Agri SA has not received an invitation to attend the conference in March, although it is a critical role player in the matter and would like to debate with the ANC leadership in this regard," said Pringle.

Issued by Agri SA, Directorate: Corporate Liaison

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