# Agri SA

## Mediaverklaring / Media Release

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

## Minister swyg oor plaasmoorde
## Minister silent on farm murders

25 Mei/May 2017

## Minister swyg oor plaasmoorde

“Terwyl ek in die Parlement sit en luister na die Minister van Polisie se begrotingsrede en kennis neem van die wreedaardige misdade teen ons mense, kon ek nie verstaan waarom die Minister swyg oor die onaanvaarbare en barbaarse moorde op boere en plaaswerkers nie,” sê Kobus Breytenbach, voorsitter van Agri SA se Landelike Veiligheidskomitee.

Breytenbach sê “dit het gevoel asof die boerderygemeenskap se bydrae tot nasie-bou en die ekonomie, asook werkskepping, nie vir die Minister en die regering belangrik is nie. Agri SA ondersteun die polisie se benadering tot die implementering van die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie en ons is van mening dat die Minister ‘n gulde geleentheid gehad het om planne rondom die daarstelling van ‘n landelike polisiëringskomponent, soos beoog in die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie, aan te kondig. Hierdie is ‘n aangeleentheid wat Agri SA met polisiebestuur bespreek het, waar ons ook gevra het dat sodanige komponent so spoedig moontlik ingestel word.”

“Agri SA waardeer die oomblik van stilte wat die Minister van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye aangevra het, asook die kommentaar tydens sy begrotingsrede dat boere en plaaswerkers beskerm moet word,” sê Breytenbach.

Roof en gewapende roof is misdade wat merendeels teen die boeregemeenskap gepleeg word en Agri SA verwelkom dus die Minister se aankondiging van die *National Trio Crimes Task Team* om die polisie te reaksie op sodanige misdade te integreer. Ons doen ‘n beroep op die Minister om te verseker dat hierdie taakspan ook uitgebrei word na die landelike boerderygemeenskap.

Die Minister se aankondiging oor die aanskaffing van meer as 3 000 voertuie om tekorte in die provinsies aan te spreek is ‘n positiewe stap. Voertuigtekorte het in die verlede misdaadbestryding en dienslewering gekortwiek en het ‘n rol gespeel in die beperking van die implementering van die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie. Agri SA is bemoedig deur hierdie aankondiging en glo dat dit dienslewering kan verbeter.

Die uitbreiding van die Openbare-orde Polisiëringseenheid en die toename in personeelgetalle is ook deur Agri SA verwelkom. Die rol van hierdie eenheid om geweld en grootskaalse grondbesettings te hanteer moet nooit onderskat word nie, soos die goeie werk wat hulle onlangs gedoen het om verdere geweld in Coligny te voorkom.

Die tekort aan voertuie en die uitbreiding van die Openbare-orde Polisiëringseenheid is aspekte wat Agri SA op verskeie vlakke met die polisie bespreek het en die Minister se aankondigings kan ‘n positiewe impak op polisiëring en misdaadbestryding hê. “Ons glo dat dit ook die situasie in landelike boerderygebiede sal wees,” sê Breytenbach.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

**Navrae**
Mnr Kobus Breytenbach, Voorsitter van Agri SA se Beleidskomitee oor Landelike Veiligheid, 083 631 6844
Mnr Kobus Visser, Direkteur: Korporatiewe Skakeling, Agri SA, 012-643 3400 of 082 388 0010

# MINISTER SILENT ON FARM MURDERS

“While sitting in Parliament listening to the Minister of Police’s budget vote, and taking cognisance of the horrendous crimes against our people, I could not understand why the Minister was so silent on the unacceptable and barbaric killings of farmers and farm workers”, said Kobus Breytenbach, chair of Agri SA’s Rural Safety Committee.

Breytenbach said, “it felt as if the farming community’s contribution to nation building and to the economy as well as job creation was not important to the Minister and government. Agri SA supports the approach by the police on the implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy and we are of the view that the Minister had an opportunity to announce plans, to introduce a rural policing component as envisaged in the Rural Safety Strategy. This is an issue, Agri SA had discussed with the management of the police and called for the introduction of this component, as soon as possible”.

“Agri SA appreciates the moment of silence called for by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and his remark that farmers and farm workers should be protected during his budget vote”, Breytenbach said.

Robbery and armed robbery are one of the crimes mostly perpetrated against the farming community and Agri SA welcomes the announcement by the Minister of the establishment of a National Trio Crimes Task Team to integrate the police response to these crimes. We call on the Minister to ensure that this task team also be extended to the rural farming areas.

The Minister’s announcement on the procurement of more than 3000 vehicles to address shortages in provinces, is a positive step. Vehicle shortages have been a constrain in crime fighting and service delivery in the past and limited the effective implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy. Agri SA is encouraged by this announcement and believe that this could improve service delivery.

The expansion of the Public Order Policing Unit and the increase in personnel numbers, is also positively received by Agri SA. The role of this unit in dealing with violence and with large scale land invasions should never be under estimated, such as the good work they have recently being doing in curbing further violence in Coligny.

Vehicle shortages and the expansion of the Public Order Policing Unit, are aspects that Agri SA has discussed with police on various levels in the past and the announcement by the Minister can only have a positive impact on policing and crime fighting. “We believe that this will also be the situation in the rural farming areas”, Breytenbach said in closing.

Issued by Agri SA, Directorate: Corporate Liaison

**Enquiries**
Mr Kobus Breytenbach, Chair of Agri SA’s Policy Committee on Rural Safety, 083 631 6844
Mr Kobus Visser, Agri SA, Director: Corporate Liaison, 012-643 3400 or 082 388 0010