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Grondmosie – populistiese politiek seevier oor nasionale belang
MOTION ON LAND – POLITICAL POPULISM TRUMPS NATIONAL INTEREST

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Grondmosie – populistiese politiek seëvier oor nasionale belang

Agri SA het volle begrip vir die noodsaak van grondhervorming en die frustrasie met die oënskynlike stadige vordering en is verbind tot ordelike en volhoubare grondhervorming. Politiek en emosie het egter die botoon gevoer in die debat oor grond wat Dinsdagmiddag in die Nasionale Vergadering gevoer is. Die EFF het ‘n mosie voorgestel wat die weg kan baan vir die skrapping of wysiging van die eiendomsklousule in die Grondwet. Die ANC het die mosie, met enkele wysigings gesteun. Die mosie is ook deur van die kleiner politieke partye gesteun. Die wysigings wat op aandrang van die ANC aangebring is behels dat die kwessie na die komitee wat verantwoordelik is vir die hersiening van grondwetlike kwessies verwys is en bring die mosie in lyn met die ANC se kongresbesluit, wat bepaal dat sodanige stap landbouproduksie moet verhoog en voedselsekerheid verbeter.

Rasionele redenasies oor die moontlike gevolge wat so stap kan inhou vir die landbousektor en die ekonomie in die breë was afwesig. Die feit is dat finansiële instellings swaar belê het in die sektor en dat onteiening sonder vergoeding ook op die banksektor sal impakteer en waarskynlik daartoe sal lei dat finansiële instellings nie verder produksielenings aan landbouers beskikbaar sal stel nie. Daarsonder kan boere nie saad, kunsmis, voer of implemente koop nie, en nie voortgaan om voedsel te produseer nie. Dit kan lei tot voedseltekorte, prysstygings, voedsel verwante onluste en sosiale onstabiliteit.

Die ANC en EFF het duidelik ook nie erns gemaak met die identifisering van die ware feite rondom die mislukking van grondhervorming nie. Dit wil voorkom asof die regerende party geen ag slaan op die bevindinge van die Hoëvlak Paneel op Sleutelwetgewing, wat deur die Parlement aangewys is en wat na deeglike ondersoek bevind het dat dit nie die eiendomsklousule of die vereiste dat vergoeding betaal moet word by onteiening is wat grondhervorming gekelder het nie, maar ‘n ontoereikende begroting, gebrekkige politieke wil, swak implementering en korrupsie. Dit is skynbaar makliker om die Grondwet te wysig as om die ware probleme met grondhervorming te probeer aanspreek.

Agri SA sal deelneem aan die konsultasies wat nou gaan volg en sal die beste moontlike kundigheid gebruik om ‘n optimale impak op die proses uit te oefen. Die organisasie sal ook regs- en ander advies oor die proses wat ontvou inwin. Agri SA sal swaar steun op die bevindinge van die ADS / Landbouweekblad / Agri SA grondoudit wat onder andere aantoon dat die mark dubbel die hoeveelheid hektare oorgedra het as wat deur die staat se programme oorgedra is. Agri SA het ernstige vrae oor die staat se grondoudit wat onlangs vrygestel is, welke oudit uiters verwarrend is en ‘n skewe beeld van

grondbesit skep. Agri SA is ten gunste van ‘n feite-gebaseerde benadering tot grondhervorming geskoei op vennootskappe en werk saam met ander rolspelers in die sektor aan ‘n strategie in die verband.

Dan Kriek, Agri SA se President het gewaarsku dat alle eiendomsbesitters se regte in gedrang kan kom en dat die wysiging van die eiendomsklousule ‘n stap terugwaarts sal verteenwoordig na ‘n verlede waar eiendomsbeskerming nie vir almal beskore was nie. Eiendomsreg is ‘n fundamentele reg wat wit en swart, arm en ryk se regte teen onregmatige staatsingryping beskerm. Die ontkenning daarvan is uit pas met internasionale praktyk en nie in die nasionale belang nie, het Kriek gesê.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

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MOTION ON LAND – POLITICAL POPULISM TRUMPS NATIONAL INTEREST

Agri SA fully understands the need for land reform and the frustration with the apparent slow progress and is committed to orderly and sustainable land reform. However, politics and emotion dominated the debate on land in the Nasional Assembly on Tuesday. The EFF proposed a motion which can pave the way for the scrapping or amendment of the property clause in the Constitution. The ANC supported the motion with a number of amendments. The motion was also supported by some of the smaller political parties. The amendments proposed by the ANC includes that the matter should be dealt with by the constitutional review committee and was intended to bring the motion in line with the ANC congress resolution, that requires that such a step should increase agricultural production and improve food security.

Rational arguments regarding the possible implications that such a step may hold for the agricultural sector and the broader economy were absent from the debate. The fact is that financial institutions are substantially invested in the sector and that expropriation without compensation will also impact negatively on the banking sector. Such a step will probably lead to a situation where financial institution will no longer make production loans available to farmers. Without these loans, farmers cannot purchase seed, fertiliser, feed or implements and will be unable to produce. This may lead to food shortages, price increases, food related riots and social instability.

The ANC and EFF clearly did not take heed of the true facts regarding the failure of land reform seriously. It appears that the governing party has ignored the findings of the High-Level Panel on Key Legislation, which was appointed by Parliament. This panel found, after a thorough investigation, that the property clause and the requirement that compensation be paid upon expropriation, were not impediments to land reform. Instead, an insufficient budget, lack of political will, poor implementation and corruption were identified as impediments. It is apparently easier to amend the Constitution than to address the real problems bedeviling land reform.

Agri SA will participate in the consultations which will now follow and will utilise the best expertise available to impact the processes optimally. The organisation will also get legal- and other advice regarding the process that is now unfolding. Agri SA will rely heavily on the findings of the ADS / Landbouweekblad / Agri SA land audit that shows, amongst other things that twice as much land has been redistributed through the market, compared to land redistributed by government. Agri SA has some serious misgivings about the government land audit that was released recently, which is confusing and presents a skewed picture of land ownership. Agri SA is in favour of a fact-based approach to land reform based on partnerships. The organisation is working on a strategy in this regard together with other stakeholders in the sector.

Dan Kriek, Agri SA's President warned that all property owners' rights are at stake and that amending the property clause represents a step backwards into a past where the protection of property rights was not applied across the board. The right to property is a fundamental right that provides protection to black and white, rich and poor against unjust state interference. The denial of this protection is out of step with international practice and is not in the national interest, said Kriek.

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