Persverklaring

22 Mei 2018

Nugtere debat oor grond verwelkom, maar onsekerheid oor kwessie van vergoeding duur voort

“Agri SA verwelkom die in-diepte en nugtere debat wat die naweek binne ANC geledere oor die grondkwessie plaasgevind het” sê Ernest Pringle, voorsitter van Agri SA se Grond Sentrum van Uitnemendheid. Die erkenning van die leierskap van die ANC dat ‘n gebrek aan implementering ‘n reuse rol gespeel het in die faling van die grondhervormingsprogramme tot dusver, is ‘n belangrike stap vorentoe. Dit moet verwelkom word dat daar behoorlik besin is oor die aanbevelings van die verslag van die Hoëvlak-Paneel op Sleutelwetgewing, wat duidelik aantoon wat die werklike struikelblokke in die weg van grondhervorming is. Dit is ook positief dat daar soveel klem gelê is op die belang van stedelike behuising en op die feit dat grond in kommunale gebiede se potensiaal, tot voordeel van daardie gemeenskappe ontsluit moet word. Kommersiële landbougrond is maar een element van grondhervorming, stedelike grond en kommunale areas is twee baie belangrike elemente wat tot dusver redelik afgeskeep is in die debat.

Agri SA vind dit egter teleurstellend dat die onsekerheid oor die ANC se standpunt oor die wysigings al dan nie van artikel 25 skynbaar nie opgeklaar is nie. Hierdie onsekerheid en onduidelikheid oor watter tipe grond moontlik geteiken kan word vir onteiening sonder vergoeding en hoe dit sal gebeur is besig om negatief op die sektor en die ekonomie in die breë te impakteer. Agri SA se standpunt is dat die Grondwet nie gewysig behoort te word nie. Agri SA sal hierdie week die organisasie se voorlegging oor die kwessie van onteiening sonder vergoeding by die Grondwetlike Hersieningskomitee indien.

Navrae

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Press release

22 May 2018

Sober debate on land welcomes, but uncertainty regarding compensation persists

“Agri SA welcomes the in-depth and sober debate on the land issue that took place within ANC ranks during the weekend,” said Ernest Pringle, chair of Agri SA’s Centre of Excellence on Land Affairs. The ANC leadership’s acknowledgement that a lack of implementation had played a major role in the failure of land reform programmes to date is an important step forward. Welcomed also is the proper deliberation of recommendations in the report released by the High-Level Panel on Key Legislation which clearly spells out the real obstacles to land reform. Also positive is the strong emphasis on the importance of urban housing and the potential of unlocking land in communal areas to the benefit of those communities. Commercial agricultural land is but one element of land reform. Urban land and communal areas are two very important elements that have been overlooked in the debate to date.

Agri SA finds it disappointing, however, that the uncertainty around the ANC’s position regarding the amendment, or otherwise, of section 25 has apparently not been resolved. This uncertainty and lack of clarity as to what type of land could be targeted for expropriation without compensation and how this will happen are having a negative impact on the sector and the economy in general. Agri SA’s position is that the Constitution should not be amended. The organisation will this week submit its commentary on the matter of expropriation without compensation to the Constitutional Review Committee.

Enquiries

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