Agri SA

Mediaverklaring / Media Release

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Verskerpte polisiesigbaarheid nou nodig
GREATER POLICE VISIBILITY NEEDED NOW

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Die pas afgelope maand is gekenmerk deur ‘n hoë voorkoms van plaasaanvalle wat verskeie landelike huishoudings ingrypend geraak het. Op navraag het die polisie aan Agri SA bevestig, dat hulle beplanning ten opsigte van misdaadvoorkomende operasies reeds in plek is, in aanloop tot die feestyd en daarna. “Ons doen ‘n dringende beroep op die polisie om in hulle beplanning, ‘n verskerpte poging inwerking te stel om sigbare polisiëring in die landelike boerderygebiede toe te pas”, sê Johannes Möller, president van Agri SA.

“Dit is belangrik dat ons boerelede op plaaslikevlak nou saamwerk met die polisie en verdagte misdaad aktiwiteite rapporteer. Ons verwag van die polisie om elke saak wat gerapporteer word deeglik te ondersoek binne die bepalings van die Strafproseswet en bestaande polisie instruksies en met ‘n goed voorbereide klagstaat verdagtes voor die hof te daag. ‘n Verhoogde vlak van paraatheid en veiligheidsbewustheid deur die boeregemeenskap in die tyd is noodsaaklik, gevolg deur die toepassing van basiese beveiligingsmaatreëls soos onder andere; deure gesluit te hou; veiligheidshekke en diefwering aan te bring; te weet wie jou eiendom betree; die effektiewe toepassing van die protokol vir plaastoegang en nie in die donker uit te gaan sonder die ondersteuning van ‘n buurman. Dit is ons ervaring dat waar boeregemeenskappe paraat is, ‘n kleiner kans bestaan vir misdadigers om toe te slaan”, sê Möller.

Suid-Afrikaners vrees huis inbrake die meeste, gevolg deur huisrowe. Volgens Möller is dit ook die misdade waaraan die boerderygemeenskap die meeste blootgestel is tydens ‘n plaasaanval. Hierdie bevinding volg na aanleiding van die Misdaad Slagofferpeiling, waarvan die uitslag pas deur Statistieke Suid-Afrika bekend gestel is en waar bevind is dat Suid-Afrikaners onveilig voel in die land. Dit stem ooreen met die onlangse misdaadstatistiek van die polisie wat aangedui het dat geweldsmisdade toegeneem het.

November is verder gekenmerk deur verskeie optredes deur die boeregemeenskap ter ondersteuning van die polisie, waartydens verdagtes wat met plaasaanvalle verbind word, gearresteer is. Möller sê dat hy “dankbaar is vir die vlak van ondersteuning deur die boerderygemeenskap, maar wys daarop dat dit die polisie se verantwoordelikheid bly om misdaad te bekamp deur toepaslike optrede. Daar is waardering vir die talle polisielede wat onder moeilike omstandighede voortgaan om ‘n goeie diens aan die boerderygemeenskap te lewer. Ons maak staat op die voortgesette professionele samewerking”.
Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direktoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

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GREATER POLICE VISIBILITY NEEDED NOW

The past month was characterised by a high incidence of farm attacks, which deeply affected various rural households. On enquiry, the police confirmed to Agri SA that their planning in respect of crime prevention operations was in place in the run-up to the festive season and thereafter. “We urgently call on the police to strengthen their efforts to implement visible policing in rural farming areas when they do their planning," said Agri SA president Johannes Möller.

“It is important that our farmer members work with the police at local level and report suspected criminal activities. We expect the police to thoroughly investigate every case that is reported within the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act and existing police instructions, and to bring suspects before the court with a well-prepared charge sheet. A higher level of alertness and safety consciousness on the part of the farming community is now necessary, followed by the application of basic security measures, such as locking doors; installing security gates and burglar bars; knowing who accesses your property; effective enforcement of the protocol for farm access; and avoiding going outside at night without the support of a neighbour. It is our experience that where farming communities are alert, it is less likely that criminals will attack,” said Möller.

South Africans fear house burglaries most, followed by house robberies. According to Möller, these are also the crimes to which most farming communities are exposed during a farm attack. This finding was made in light of the Victims of Crime Survey, the results of which were recently released by Statistics South Africa. It was found that South Africans feel unsafe in the country. This corresponds with the recent crime statistics of the police, which indicated that violent crime had increased.

November was further characterised by various actions taken by the farming community to assist the police, during which suspects linked to farm attacks were arrested. According to Möller, he was “grateful for the level of support provided by the farming community, but it remained the responsibility of the police to curb crime through appropriate action. There was appreciation for the many police officers who continue to provide the farming community with a good service under very difficult circumstances. We rely on their continued professional cooperation”.

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