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Droogte is die Wes-, Oos- en Noord-Kaap word verklaar as 'n nasionale ramp **WESTERN CAPE, EASTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE DROUGHT DECLARED A NATIONAL DISASTER**

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Die Nasionale Rampbestuursentrum het op 13 Februarie 2018 die voortslepende droogte in die Wes-, Oos- en Noord-Kaap as 'n nasionale ramp verklaar. Dit beteken dat ingevolge die Nasionale Wet op Rampbestuur van 2002, die uitvoerende gesag (d.w.s. die Kabinet) met 'die nasionale ramp moet handel ingevolge bestaande wetgewing en gebeurlikheidsreëlings.

Die verklaring van 'n nasionale ramp behels dat die Minister van Samewerkende Regering en Tradisionele Sake, mnr Des van Rooyen, in beraadslaging met ander kabinetministers, regulasies mag uitvaardig en instruksies mag uitreik in verband met, onder andere, die volgende:

- Die beskikbaarstelling van enige hulpbronne van die nasionale regering;
- Stappe om die gevolge van die ramp te versag, beperk en te minimaliseer;
- Stappe wat nodig mag wees om te verhoed dat die ramp verder eskaleer; en
 - Fasilitering van reaksie asook post-ramp herstel and rehabilitasie.

Die Nasionale Landboubemarkingsraad wat die Ministerie van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye adviseer, het onderneem om 'n groep belanghebbendes, insluitend Agri SA, byeen te bring om te handel met die vernietigende impak wat die droogte op die landbousektor gehad het en om vorendag te kom met 'n "slim" droogterampbestuursplan. Agri SA, wat reeds sedert 2016 vir 'n nasionale rampverklaring pleit, het sy *Smart Disaster Aid Plan* aan sy nasionale kongres in Oktober 2017 voorgelê. Daar word gehoop dat die Nasionale Rampbestuursentrum hom sal beroep op die aanbevelings daarin asook op die geweldige ervaring binne die organisasie om die huidige droogte aan te spreek.

Agri SA president Dan Kriek het die organisasie se volle ondersteuning aan die nasionale regering gebied, met spesifieke verwysing na die aangewese toekomstige President van Suid-Afrika, Cyril Ramaphosa, gedurende die droogte en veral te midde van die onstuimige politieke klimaat wat tans heers.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direkoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

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WESTERN CAPE, EASTERN CAPE AND NORTHERN CAPE DROUGHT DECLARED A NATIONAL DISASTER

The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) on 13 February 2018 declared the ongoing drought in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape Provinces a National Disaster. This means that, in terms of the National Disaster Management Act of 2002 (DMA), the National Executive (i.e. Cabinet) must deal with the national disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements.

The declaration of a National Disaster entails that the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Minister Des van Rooyen may, in consultation with other Cabinet Ministers, make regulations and authorise the issuing of directions concerning, amongst other things:

- The release of any available resources of the national government;
- Steps to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the disaster;
- Steps that may be necessary to prevent an escalation of the disaster; and
- The facilitation of response and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC), which advises the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, has undertaken to bring together a group of stakeholders, including Agri SA, to deal with the devastating effects which the drought has had on the agricultural sector and to come up with a smart drought disaster management plan. Agri SA, which has been calling for a national disaster declaration since 2016, presented its *Smart Disaster Aid Plan* at its National Congress held in October 2017. It is hoped that the recommendations contained therein and the wealth of experience within the organisation will be called upon to assist the NDMC in dealing with the current National Disaster.

President of Agri SA, Dan Kriek, reiterated the organisation's offer of the full support to the National Government, in particular the incumbent President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, during the current drought, particularly in the midst of the present turbulent political times.

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