**Mediaverklaring**

11 September 2018

# Geweldskultuur teen boere, onaanvaarbaar

Agri SA veroordeel ten sterkste die voortgesette geweld wat die boerderygemeenskap asook mede-Suid-Afrikaners daagliks raak. Die Minister van Polisie, Bheki Cele het vanoggend in die parlement die jongste nasionale misdaadstatistiek bekendgemaak. Dit is kommerwekkend dat 62 plaasmoorde gedurende 2017/2018 voorgekom het. Dit is 15 moorde meer as wat vroeër vanjaar in die parlement bekendgemaak is.

**"Moorde en aanvalle op die boerderygemeenskap is te hoog en is onaanvaarbaar, die publiek en regering moet kennis neem hiervan," sê Kobus Breytenbach, die voorsitter van Agri SA se Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid: Landelike Veiligheid. "As meer Suid-Afrikaners en internasionale rolspelers druk uitoefen, sal dit lei tot beter optrede om plaasmoorde en -aanvalle te voorkom."**

Die Agri Securitas Trust Fonds het oor die afgelope jare meer as R10 miljoen aan plaasveiligheid en misdaadvoorkoming bygedra en duisende boere en plaaswerkers gehelp.

**"Die Agri Securitas Trustfonds se werk oor die jare om boerderygemeenskappe te beveilig, is prysenswaardig en lewer reeds uitstekende resultate," sê Breytenbach. "Alle finansiële en ander ondersteuning aan dié fonds is van kardinale belang."**

Volgens die statistiek wat vanoggend vrygestel is, het moorde in die algemeen sedert 2011/2012 toegeneem. Die 2017/2018 finansiële jaar se moordsyfer was 6,9% hoër as die vorige jaar. Ander opvallende statistiek wat bekendgemaak is, is dat die sogenaamde trio-misdade naamlik huis-, besigheidsrowe en motorkapings die afgelope jaar afgeneem het, terwyl dit in die vorige jaar toegeneem het.

**"Dit is dié misdade waaraan die boerderygemeenskap die meeste blootgestel is en raak die lewensbestaan van diegene wat in die landbou werksaam is nadelig," sê Breytenbach. "Die vlakke van brutaliteit is te hoog en daadwerklike pogings, ondersteun deur intelligensie, moet reaksietye verbeter en plaasaanvalle voorkom."**

Agri SA het reeds 'n dringende versoek aan die Minister van Polisie gerig om dié kwessies en ander knelpunte te bespreek in 'n poging om oplossings vir die geweldskultuur in ons boerderygebiede te vind. Die Agri Securitas Trustfonds staan reeds talle boere-verenigings by.

**Navrae:**

Kobus Breytenbach
Agri SA voorsitter van Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid: Landelike Veiligheid
S: 083 631 6844

Kobus Visser
Agri SA Direkteur: Landelike Veiligheid en Provinsiale Sake
S: 082 388 0010

**Media release**

11 September 2018

# Culture of violence against farmers, unacceptable

Agri SA strongly condemns the continued violence that the farming community and fellow South Africans face daily. The Minister of Police, Bheki Cele announced the latest national crime statistics in parliament this morning. It is worrying that 62 farm murders occurred during 2017/2018. It is 15 murders more than what was announced in parliament earlier this year.

**“Murders and attacks on the farming community remain too high and are unacceptable, the public and government should take note of this,” says Kobus Breytenbach, chair of the Agri SA Centre of Excellence: Rural Safety. “If more South Africans and international role players bring this to light, there will be improved action to prevent farm murders and attacks.”**

The Agri Securitas Trust Fund has over the past years contributed more that R10 million to farm security and crime prevention and has helped thousands of farmers and farm workers.

**“The Agri Securitas Trust Fund’s work over the years to safeguard farming communities is commendable and is delivering good results,” said Breytenbach. “All financial and other support to this fund is of utmost importance.”**

According to the statistics released this morning, murders in general have increased since 2011/2012. The murder rate in the 2017/2018 financial year was 6,9% higher than the previous year. Other striking statistics that have been announced are that the so-called trio crimes, namely house robbery, business robbery and hijackings have decreased in the past year, while in the previous year it showed an increase.

**“These are the crimes that the farming community are most exposed to and it is detrimental to the livelihoods of those who work in agriculture,” says Breytenbach. “The levels of brutality are too high and effective efforts, supported by intelligence, must be actioned to improve response times and prevent these farm attacks.”**

Agri SA has already requested an urgent meeting with the Minister of Police to discuss these issues and others in an effort to find solutions for the culture of violence in our farming communities. The Agri SA Securitas Trust Fund already assists various farmers’ associations.

**Enquiries:**

Kobus Breytenbach
Agri SA Chair of Centre of Excellence: Rural Safety
C: 083 631 6844

Kobus Visser
Agri SA Director: Rural Safety and Provincial Affairs
C: 082 388 0010