



AgriCulture South Africa (AgriSA)

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Dear members,

As President of AgriSA, I must address a pressing issue that directly impacts our agricultural sector and the future of farming in South Africa. On 23 January 2025, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Expropriation Bill into law, a decision that we view with disappointment.

As a farmer and businessman, the signing of the bill is concerning, but I am confident that we will be able to navigate the uncertainty ahead with the necessary legal remedies and leadership. AgriSA's stance on this bill is clear: we believe that the wrong interpretation and implementation, pose a risk to private property rights, which are foundational to the structure and functioning of South African agriculture. The provisions of the bill allow for the expropriation of land with "nil" compensation under certain conditions in the public interest. This development raises concerns regarding agricultural sustainability and food security across our nation.

The potential impact on farmers cannot be overstated. The threat to private property rights undermines the very principles upon which our industry operates. Without the assurance of land ownership and the protection of property values, farmers' investor confidence will be hindered, and ultimately our ability to feed our nation.

Before the bill's signing, AgriSA actively participated in the NEDLAC and parliamentary processes from 2013 to 2020. We contributed to the discussions surrounding the 2016 Expropriation Bill, which laid the groundwork for the current legislation. Most recently, on April 29, 2024, we urged President Ramaphosa to utilize his constitutional powers to either return the Expropriation Bill to the National Assembly for reconsideration or consult the Constitutional Court regarding its constitutionality. Our letter included the findings of an independent macroeconomic impact assessment conducted by GOPA Group South Africa, which reiterates our belief that private property rights are essential for capital formation, economic development, and job creation.

AgriSA remains committed to advocating for transformation and land reform within the agricultural sector, but we believe that such efforts must align with economic stability and investor confidence. Moving forward, we will employ all necessary resources to defend property rights and fair and reasonable compensation as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. We will uphold these principles that support our farmers and the agricultural community at large.

We will keep you informed on our next steps and encourage you to stay engaged and vocal in defense of our rights and interests.

Sincerely,

Jaco Minnaar  
President, AgriSA

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