

Press Release

Surplus People Project

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for immediate release

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Rural women to picket at parliament

"Protest action against water laws, GM production methods, access to land, lack of EIAs on land earmarked for farming and BEE practices"

Eighty rural women from across the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Cape are to picket in front of parliament today. Organised by the SPP, the picket is the climax of a three-day conference called "From Poverty to Food Sovereignty - Rural Women Unite.

Delegates, who are mostly farm workers and small scale farmers, have been locked in intensive discussions on food sovereignty and agro-ecology, movement building and the intricacies of setting up a campaign to advance their struggle for land and equality.

According to SPP Director, Herschelle Milford, the conference is but the beginning of a concerted process to put the issues of rural women on the national agenda.

"Delegates, who are representing farming communities in the Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern Cape, will also be drawing up an action plan for engaging the various role-players in the land and agricultural sector.

In SPP, we have identified rural women participation as critical for the well-being of the South African democracy. We have to take back the means of production and ensure that rural women in their various organisations have equal access to land and other resources. " she says.

The picket at parliament is to start at 11h00 today, 26 March 2009 with various land rights organisations set to support the protest action.

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