

**CONSOLIDATED MEMORANDUM OF THE RIGHT TO AGRARIAN  
REFORM FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN**

**TO: THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS, MINISTER  
LULAMA XINGWANA  
THE MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MINISTER  
FHOLISANI SYDNEY MUFAMADI**

**DATE: FRIDAY 9 MAY 2008**

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND 14  
YEARS IS TOO LONG!**

**WE WANT WHAT IS  
OURS –  
LAND, HOUSING,  
SECURE TENURE,  
WATER, ELECTRICITY,  
ROADS, TELEPHONES,  
EXTENSION SERVICES,  
DEMOCRATIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
RECOGNITION AND  
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

We are the landless, homeless, historically disadvantaged and marginalised rural communities of the Northern and Western Cape. With this march and this memorandum we want to express our outrage at the policies of the government that support privatisation and commercial farming following a chemical industrial model, which is responsible for our continued landlessness, homelessness and lack of adequate services and food sovereignty -14 years after the first democratic elections.

We will spell out in detail that we are, the problems we face and what we need, although we know a single memorandum cannot say everything. We claim what is rightfully ours:

- Land
- Housing
- Secure tenure
- Water
- Electricity
- Roads
- Telephones
- Extension services
- Democratic participation in government
- Recognition
- Food sovereignty.

## **WHO WE ARE – PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS**

- Emerging farmers of the Hantam Karoo: Loeriesfontein, Niewoudtville, Melkkraal, Brandvlei, Calvinia, Carnarvon, Williston, Fraserburg, Van Wyksvlei and Sutherland.
- Small-scale farmers and landless people from Namaqualand: Hondeklop Bay, Garies, Kamieskroon, Soebatsfontein, Okiep, Nababeep, Carolusberg, Fonteintjie, Matjieskloof, Goodhouse, Pofadder, Steinkopf, Komaggas, Bergsig, Sanddrift, Kuboes and Leliefontein.
- 5 Transnet settlements in the Central Karoo: Nelspoort Station, Lietjiesbos, Leeugamka Station, Matjiesfontein and Prince Albert Road.
- 3 Informal settlements of the Southern Cape – Wilderness Heights, Power Town and Kleinkrantz.
- Emerging farmers from the Cederberg region – Elandsbaai, Lamberts Bay, Clanwilliam, Wupperthal, Algeria, and Citrusdal.
- Bergriver Emerging Farmers Forum – Porterville, Piketberg/Gonjemans, Eendekuil, Redelinghuys, Aurora-Trust, Goedverwacht
- Theewaterskloof community – Nuweberg residents
- Matzikama small-scale farmers – Doornbaai, Koekenaap, Lutzville, Vredendal, Van Rhynsdorp, Klawer

- DMA – Bitterfontein, Nuwerus, Rietpoort, Molsvlei, Lepelsfontein, Putse Kloof, Kliprand, Stofkraal

## **OUR PROBLEMS**

- Land reform is slow and make access to land difficult e.g. in Calvinia, Brandvlei, Van Wyksvlei, Carnarvon, Fraserburg, Williston and Sutherland. In Loeriesfontein only ONE farm was transferred in private ownership (LRAD) in the last 13 years.
- The privatisation of Transnet left people with no jobs, no tenure security and dependent on state grants. Local municipalities refuse to take responsibility for Transnet settlements. These communities have housing contracts with Transnet until 2009. What will happen after that? Transnet settlements cannot access land to grow food. Large businesses get preference over our needs e.g. the leasing of Transnet buildings.
- AGRIBEE promotes capitalism and commercial farming. It marginalises small-scale farmers committed to sustainable farming and food sovereignty.
- Municipal funding allocated by the West Coast District Municipality for emerging farmers are not spent e.g. in Lamberts Bay.
- Municipalities do not have dedicated staff to assist small-scale farmers e.g. in Cederberg. The current person is mostly unavailable.
- Municipalities are slow with service delivery.
- Municipalities attend to the needs of wealthy ratepayers but people in informal settlements get inferior housing and services.
- The bucket system is still not eradicated.
- Municipalities refuse to make land available to small-scale farmers e.g. Masakhane Project in Cederberg Municipality where the municipality owns commonage land. As a result farmers have no access to land, but have resources (funds) for farming.
- 2.5 ha of land are allocated to large numbers of people for e.g. in Lamberts Bay 2.5ha of land have been allocated to 35 people by the Cederberg Municipality. Clearly this is not enough land for the number of people.
- Women are discriminated against and always get less land than men, e.g. in Clanwilliam.
- Children feel insecure and drop out of school.
- Dependence on seasonal farm work.
- The rights of farm workers are suppressed.
- Evictions from farms.
- We live in informal settlements with insecure tenure e.g. in the Southern Cape.
- Purchase/ownership and development of land by wealthy investors continues to prevent poor people from accessing land e.g. Lagoon Bay and Le Grande golf estates in the Southern Cape.
- Farms are not utilised, while we have no access to farmland.
- Rural communities live under threat of forced removal to urban townships. Such removals would destroy our rural lifestyles, livelihoods, social networks and community ties.

- Communities do not get access to information e.g. Lamberts Bay people do not know if their application to the DLA for funding has been successful. People in Masakhane want to know what land has been allocated to Landscape and what they plan with the land.
- Poor people are hidden in townships out of sight
- Moravian Church does not take responsibility for development needs of people staying on church owned land
- Poor coordination between government departments impacts negatively on communities e.g. non-cooperation between DLG&H, local municipalities and DLA mean even if land is donated or cheap, people cannot settle there in a sustainable way.
- Poor or no extension support from the Department of Agriculture in Namaqualand and the Hantam regions.
- Extension officers in agriculture do not respond timeously e.g. in Lamberts Bay
- Empty promises of government e.g. MEC Dyantyi promised to find land for the people of Power Town.
- IDPs do not address the needs of small-scale farmers e.g. in Cederberg.
- Rental agreements (lease periods) are too short for sustainable farming to take place.
- Commercial farmers still control water resources, e.g. Bergriver region.
- Commercial farmers use pesticides that damage the environment and impact on health of people e.g. Bergriver region.
- Unemployment, e.g. Nuweberg residents that lost their jobs in 2002.
- Private land ownership monopolised by white people.
- Farms inaccessible for small-scale farmers.
- Unfunded mandates to local government are problematic
- The incomplete tenure reform process in terms of the Transformation of Certain Rural Areas Act, Act 94 of 1998: Although this first comprehensive tenure reform process has been completed in September 2003 with recommendations for the transfer of the land in the remainder, the Minister is yet to make the final decision on the transfer of the land. The principal recommendation is, irrespective of whom the future owner(s) will be, that continuous administrative support needs to be rendered to the beneficiary community.
- The failure of the R55-million rand Goodhouse Paprika Project and absence of a sustainable follow-up development strategy: A multimillion (R55 million) irrigation project was initiated in 2000, which failed and left the beneficiaries worse-off. This has been primarily as a result of how the project was conceptualized and implemented – a highly politicized project.
- The poor or non-existent extension support in the Hantam- and Namaqualand regions: Currently extension services from the Department of Agriculture are very poor or non-existent. Another serious concern is that the extension services that are provided are mainly based on the **chemical industrial model of agriculture**. To date we could not be serviced in alternatives e.g. organic production. The main reasons for this are lack of integration of land reform and

agriculture, lack of personnel, training in the predominant chemical industrial model of agriculture and financial constraints.

## WHAT WE WANT

- Enough land!
- Land to grow our own food.
- The effective implementation of the expropriation clause in the constitution.
- The expropriation of commercial farmers that own too much land.
- We want to own land, not rent for the rest of our lives.
- Urgent attention to high land prices.
- Revision of the LRAD programme. Attention needs to be given to the LRAD grant especially for farmers who are interested in extensive (small stock) farming in semi-desert areas.
- The end to tender processes that commercial farmers currently use to sell their farms.
- The state must have first option to buy farms.
- A clear policy on municipal commonage that answers the needs of emerging farmers e.g. people in the Lukhanyo Agricultural Project need clarity around rental of commonage. The Cederberg municipality has no policy around commonage. Policy must recognise the reality of historically disadvantaged communities.
- Fair allocation of commonage.
- Information about municipal commonage must be made available.
- The land in the tenure reform process in the 6 Coloured Rural Areas of Namaqualand must be transferred to the different legal entities, inclusive of the **state land**, “old” commonage land and “new” commonage land with **continuous administrative support to the beneficiary community**.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs must lodge an official investigation into the R55-million Goodhouse Irrigation Project and support the predominantly poor community of Goodhouse with land – based initiatives that will bring sustainable development to the people.
- Cut-off date for land claims must be reviewed.
- Review the export led model for agriculture.
- Move from capitalist to socialist development.
- Impartial evaluators of land for sale who do not use their position to over value farms and obstruct land reform.
- Water resources must be allocated fairly – 50% for emerging farmers and 50% for commercial farmers. Stop evictions of farm dwellers. Local governments must take responsibility to do this.
- Water. We need help with sinking boreholes and we need secure water rights. The dam at Petersfield must be deepened. The Nuweberg community (Grabouw) wants free water.
- Appropriate and affordable services.
- Land claims must be settled speedily.
- An end to the bucket system.
- Safe and proper roads, e.g. Wupperthal.
- Access to communication technology like cell phones, e.g. Wupperthal.

- Sustainable services like solar power, water tanks and waterless toilets.
- Municipal policies must carry the approval of small-scale farmers.
- DLG&H must take a pro-active stance to ensure rural people are accommodated in sustainable human settlements where we will be secure, own our own homes and will have land to produce food for our families.
- Municipal councillors must be more responsive to emerging farmers.
- The official in Cederberg municipality are not available for emerging farmers.
- Government departments to work in an integrated manner for the benefit of communities. The DLG&H, DLA and local municipalities must take joint responsibility and initiative. Service delivery by Cederberg municipality is not coordinated with services from other levels of government.
- Proper transport infrastructure for rural areas, e.g. Wuppertal.
- Secure tenure of land and housing. E.g. people on state land in Southern Cape and Central Karoo, people farming on rented land like municipal commonage and church owned land, Tembalethu farmers.
- Electricity. We demand access to free basic electricity. The Nuweberg residents (Grabouw) want to be able to buy electricity at any shop and not be obligated to buy for R40.
- Medical services, especially emergency services for isolated communities, e.g. Wupperthal.
- Recreation programmes, activities and facilities for young people in rural areas.
- Houses and services where people want to live e.g. the Power Town resident's want to stay in Klein-Brak. People of Wilderness Heights and Kleinkrantz informal settlements also do not want to move.
- Housing must be maintained, e.g. in Nuweberg (Grabouw) and Transnet communities.
- Clear responsibilities for municipalities with regard to our communities e.g. Transnet communities and informal settlements.
- Recognition of our community forums and organisations and a willingness from government to liaise with our structures e.g. DLG&H to report progress through the Central Karoo Steering Committee for Transnet Settlements. The Cederberg Emerging Farmers Forum wants recognition from the Cederberg municipality and would like to participate at council meetings when emerging farmer issues are discussed.
- Emerging farmers associations must be consulted at all times with the buying and expropriation of farms.
- Effective access to affordable financial help – the Landbank is not the solution. Municipalities must also help.
- No relocation of rural people to big urban townships.
- Government officials must be more helpful and change their attitudes.
- A life of respect.
- People must get access to information that they need. E.g. in Petersfield people do not know what happened to money allocated for upgrading of houses.

- Stop trying to settle too many farmers on one farm. It is a recipe for failure.
- Emerging farmers must benefit from tourism projects.
- Resources to upgrade communities where they are and want to be e.g. the 5 Transnet communities of the Central Karoo, Power Town, Wilderness Heights and Kleinkrantz.
- Government must be accessible e.g. the provincial minister for agriculture in the Northern Cape should urgently visit associations of emerging farmers. Too much time and attention are given to commercial farmers.
- Sustainable management of natural resources.
- Government must get commercial farmers to farm organically in ways that are good for the environment and for people.
- Adequate extension services (enough personnel and resources) should be provided to small-scale farmers that will cater for the needs of farmers pursuing alternative production (e.g. organic, agro-ecological practices) systems.
- Rental agreement must take into account the interests and aspirations of small-scale farmers for sustainable farming and food sovereignty.
- Local emerging farmers must get preference in the handing out of contracts e.g. in Nuweberg.

## **WHAT WE DO**

We see this action as part of our on-going struggle for agrarian reform for food sovereignty, as well as decent basic social services and democratic participation in government.

We want a written response from the respective ministers within 21 days. We want urgent meetings with the ministers.

Contact the Task team of the Right to Agrarian Reform for Food Sovereignty Campaign.

## **2. POPULAR EDUCATION SESSION**

SPP will be hosting a two-day popular ("political) education session on 11-12 July 2008 in Springbok. The purpose of these sessions is to build the critical awareness of individuals and groups that we work with regard to key land-related issues. Water will be one of the key issues that will be discussed and a focus for this session will be on catchment management and institutional arrangements.

Signed at ..... on this the ..... day of  
.....2008.

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Minister Lulama Xingwana

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Minster of Provincial and Local Government  
Minister Fholisani Sydney Mufamadi

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