



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM : AZAPO SECRETARY FOR LAND & AGRICULTURE

DATE : TUESDAY MAY 31, 2022

SUBJECT : AZAPO SUPPORTS THE BLACK FARMERS' PROTEST MARCH

Everyday AZAPO is vindicated by the loud outcry of black people in Azania confirming the devastating effects of the pseudo democracy achieved in 1994 – a fake indeed!

For starters, the basic reason for waging the struggle against the then settler colonial apartheid government for the repossession of our stolen land, has not been achieved to date. To be precise, according to the 2017 land audit black people only account for less than 10% of land ownership in Azania despite them being in majority. Those who are beneficiaries of land reform, especially the redistribution leg (one of the three legs of land reform), remain lessee of government land at a costly rental rate in the land of their ancestors. This is despite government not being able to fulfil its post settlement support, as promised.

It is therefore not surprising that black farmers' contribution to the food production in Azania is less than 5%. For those who are able to produce, their products are unaccepted in the value chain citing subjective GAP certifications that are expensive to keep up with. In AZAPO's view, GAP certification is another way of keeping black farmers excluded from participation in the main economy of Azania.

As though the land issues and market barriers are not enough, black people remain excluded from the financial institutions and are only looked at when applying for car finances and credit accounts for clothing as a strategy to keep them as consumers, not producers.

Every time issues related to participation of black farmers in the mainstream agricultural sector are raised, they are met with statements that indicated such policies and programmes will jeopardise the state of food security in Azania. What this means Black Farmers are on their own. It is on this basis that AZAPO supported the march of Black Farmers held today in Gauteng and the Eastern Provinces. Instead of emphasising food security, government should be talking about food sovereignty. AZAPO supports efforts

Enquiries: Gaontebale Nodoba or Cikizwa Dabula
Telephone: 061 332 4792 / 061 487 2032
Office: Publicity Secretary
Email: info@azapo.org.za
Website: www.azapo.org.za

Office 503 - 5th Floor, Corner House
77 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg 2001
P.O. Box 4230, JOHANNESBURG 2000

of Black Farmers meant to ensure they make a meaningful contribution towards food sovereignty.

AZAPO believes that participation of black people in general will in fact strengthen food sovereignty in Azania. AZAPO therefore calls for the subsidisation of black farmers to cover at least 60% of their input costs as a way of ensuring food sovereignty in AZANIA and as a reparation for more than 300 years of struggle against the settler colonial and apartheid regime.

AZAPO further calls on government to exclusively procure at least 60% of food needed in feeding schemes of schools, prisons, hospitals, Defence force, etc.. This approach will ensure the rand circulates longer in black hands than is currently the case. Government can achieve this procurement progressively over 5 years. The proposed 60% exclusive procurement strategy may be achieved in phases over a period of 5 years. For example, starting with a target of say 10% of procurement in year 1, then 20% in year 2; 30% in years 3-4 and 60% from year 5 going forward.

By Nosipiwo Manona

Deputy Secretariat of Land and Agriculture

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