MINISTER
AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X250, Pretoria, 0001; 20 Steve Biko Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: 012 319 6000; E-mail: queries@nda.gov.za; Website: www.nda.agric.za

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Dear AFASA National Leadership

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF AFASA KWAZULU-NATAL CHAIRPERSON, MR MBONGENI SKHAKHANE

The Minister and his ministry convey their deepest condolences to the leadership, members, and broader AFASA family following the tragic and untimely passing of the AFASA KwaZulu-Natal Chairperson, Mr Mbongeni Skhakhane.

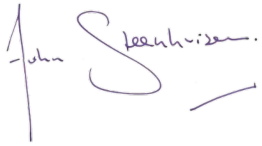
The loss of Mr Skhakhane is not only a profound tragedy for his family and colleagues, but a significant blow to the agricultural sector and rural communities he served with dedication and integrity. He was a committed farmer, a community leader, and a tireless advocate for the empowerment of emerging farmers and rural development in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Minister strongly condemns this senseless and cowardly act of violence. Any attack on farmers, business owners, and community leaders undermines food security, economic stability, and social cohesion in our country. Such acts have no place in a democratic South Africa.

We join AFASA in calling on law enforcement authorities to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted and that those responsible are swiftly brought to justice. The safety and security of farmers and rural communities remain a priority, and government will continue working with all stakeholders to address crime affecting the agricultural sector.

On behalf of the Minister and the Department of Agriculture, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Skhakhane family, AFASA members, and all those affected by this devastating loss. May his legacy of service, leadership, and commitment to agriculture continue to inspire future generations.

Yours sincerely,



MR JOHN STEENHUISEN, MP
MINISTER: AGRICULTURE