



MINISTRY

AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Sir/Madam

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONS DURING COVID-19

I trust this communication finds you well.

I have been receiving written communication and at times telephone calls from various members of the farming community as well as feedlot owners regarding the auctions. Since the President announced the lockdown, Agriculture was identified as an essential service in order to ensure that the production of food is not compromised. It was however noted that even in these circumstances, proper hygiene standards are maintained in line of Covid-19. All of us therefore in the various meetings of the steering committee understood that all agricultural activities would continue.

After the declaration of the state of disaster, the Disaster Management Act, 2002 takes effect. Regulations in line with the Act were promulgated and announced. It became clear that in respect of agriculture there are certain regulations that pose a challenge such as the one that refers to gatherings during this time. This has caused a challenge in the management of the lockdown from the security services who have not allowed in certain areas auctions to take place.

I have raised the matter with the Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee, Minister Dlamini-Zuma and Minister Lamola of Justice and Correctional Services. We have agreed that the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform will present guidelines in line with the required health standards and present them to the committee in order to align with the expected health standards. The guidelines will be presented to the committee which includes other Ministers in particular those who belong to the security and the economic clusters.

I therefore write this letter to give you feedback that the matter is being attended to.

Yours sincerely,


MS AT DIDIZA, MP

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 23-04-2020