

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Mineraleregte: Landbou verdien regsekerheid

“Hoewel ons teleurgesteld is dat dit nou langer gaan duur, voor daar regsekerheid is of die staat grondeienaars se minerale regte onteien het, het ons die grootste respek vir die integriteit van regter Hans-Joachim Fabricius wat afstaan, nadat hy ‘n brief waarvan hyself die outeur was, onder die ingediende dokumente herken het.”

Ds. Theunis Botha sê in sy reaksie te veel onsekerhede hang oor die landbou se koppe. “Om nou nog onsekerheid oor die sogenaamde ondergrond te hê terwyl die regering rondval oor sy grondhervormings- en landboubeleide, verg dit besondere kundigheid en deursettingsvermoë om suksesvol te kan boer. Bykans elke geluid uit regeringskringe oor landbou- en grondhervormingsdoelwitte spreek van ontstellende onkunde. Boonop laat die veiligheidsituasie veel te wense oor.

“Ons spreek die hoop uit dat die landbou binnekort in ‘n veel gunstiger regeer-omgewing koers sal kan kry.”

Mineral rights: Farmers deserve certainty

“Although we are disappointed that it will now take even longer to obtain judicial clarity on whether government indeed expropriated / nationalised the mineral rights of farmers, we have the utmost respect for the integrity of Judge Hans-Joachim Fabricius, who withdrew from the case when he noticed a document which he was the author of, amongst documents entered into the court.”

So says Rev. Theunis Botha, reacting to the developments, that too much uncertainty surrounds agriculture. “To add more uncertainty on the status of the so called sub soil or underground issue, while government is still procrastinating with a land reform and agricultural policy, requires extreme perseverance and much know how to ensure successful farming. Virtually every statement by government on agricultural and land reform is heavily tainted with a lack of knowledge. The security position also leaves much to be desired.

“We trust that agriculture will soon be able to thrive in a much healthier climate of governance.”