

Kantoor van die Premier
Office of the Premier
I-ofisi ye Nkulumbuso



Reference
Verwysing
Isingqinisiso

PM 3/2/2

Date
Datum
Umhla

13 November 2012

Mr J G Zuma
The Honourable President
Private Bag X1000
PRETORIA
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Per Fax: (012) 323 8246

Dear President Zuma

I have experienced first-hand the intimidation and political mobilisation that is causing the arson and illegal strikes to spread across the Western Cape Province. I have also had first hand reports from others. An sms has been going around, driving a campaign to "bring Agriculture Western Cape to its knees".

The consequences of this crisis will be very severe, not only for the Western Cape but for South Africa as a whole. It will very seriously impact on our food export industry and the hundreds of thousands of people who are dependent on it. It will also have a profound impact on the fundamental issue of food security in South Africa.

The proximate cause of the current impasse is the crucial matter of minimum wages for farm workers.

The gazetted amount of R347.10 per week (approx. R70 per day) has been established as the minimum wage by the National Minister of Labour, Minister Mildred Oliphant in March 2012.

We believe the current conflict could be defused if the Minister would bring together the relevant stakeholders and begin negotiations towards establishing a new minimum wage level for farm workers.

We call on you to require Minister Oliphant to do this immediately.

We also call on you to require COSATU to enter these discussions in good faith and to end incitement and intimidation. It is nothing short of a disgrace that a formal COSATU statement announced "Marikana has come to farms."

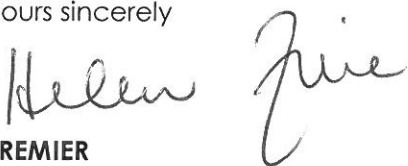
Minister Marius Fransman's role could only be for the purpose of political aggravation of a volatile situation, and it certainly has had this impact.

This matter can be resolved through an immediate request from you to Minister Oliphant to take this essential step.

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

With thanks

Yours sincerely


PREMIER

(HELEN ZILLE)