

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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NOKO MASIPA, MP

DA MEMBER ON THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thoko Didiza
Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development
Per e-mail:

Dear Minister, Thoko Didiza,

Request for urgent intervention regarding locust outbreak.

I am writing to you to request that you urgently intervene and petition your counterpart, Minister of Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Dr Dlamini-Zuma to declare a localized national disaster in farmers and rural farming communities that are affected by the massive locust outbreak.

Honourable Minister Didiza, your local and national department has been involved on the ground fighting the locust outbreak in parts of the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State with no success.

The DA is concerned that their efforts are not bringing forth the desired result with increased spread of the locust into inner parts of Central Karoo and many other parts of the abovementioned provinces. There has been allegations of delayed prescribed toxic agents, clothes and payment. We acknowledge and understand that the department is faced with budgetary constraints. Furthermore, the department can petition national treasury or move budgets. The DA believes that it is time that your department start petitioning to Min Dr. Dlamini Zuma to declare disaster to the areas affected by this outbreak, a national area.

We are very concerned about the Ukraine/Russia war which is going to have major impact on our food security caused rising input costs and food prices. We are therefore appealing to you to also consider the devastating impact of the flying locust. Upon areas disaster being declared disaster area, your department can then prepare budget requirements to deal decisively with the outbreak.

I hope that the request shall receive your favourable response. Agriculture is time sensitive. If we don't act fast, the country shall be plunged into a disaster due to these locusts.

Yours sincerely,
Noko Masipa (MP)
DA Member on the Portfolio Committee of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development

(sent electronically without signature)