



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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08 June 2023

Hon. M.C Ramaphosa  
President: Republic of South Africa  
Per e-mail: [malebo@presidency.gov.za](mailto:malebo@presidency.gov.za) // [presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za](mailto:presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za)

Dear Mr President

**REF: Request for a Commission of inquiry into farm murders**

Dear Mr. President

In my capacity as a Member of Parliament, and on behalf of my political party – Democratic Alliance (DA), I am writing to you with a heavy heart and with deep concern on the increasing frequency and brutality of farm attacks and murders. This past week, the country wake up to the news of the brutal murder of a prominent businesswoman and her family in Limpopo. As if this was not callous enough, their bodies were set alight by the perpetrators. Before we could recover from this shock, news came though that Pierre and Belinda De Kock were also murdered on their farm in Aurora, Western Cape.

Mr President, the murdered individuals were farmers who worked day and night to ensure that our country is food secure. Yet their lives were cut short by heartless murderers with no care for the sanctity of human life.

Despite the frequency of farm attacks and murders, the DA, and indeed the whole of South Africa, remain perplexed that not much is being done to protect our farmers from criminal elements that are terrorizing our rural communities. Lawlessness has taken root on our farms and rural communities but nothing is being done to deal with the scourge decisively.

If we continue to pursue rural crime prevention as a separate activity from food production value chain, we will continue to expose our farmers and rural residents to criminal networks. It doesn't help that government is only good at making promises on rural safety but have repeatedly failed to follow this up with tangible action. During Police Minister Bheki Cele's recent budget vote, he failed to mention any progress made on rural safety or rural crime in his speech. Despite having recently developed Rural Safety Strategy, there are already doubts on SAPS' commitment to fight rural crime because of broken promises in the past.

Mr President, you will recall that the Rural Safety Strategy was borne out of calls by farmers for engagement and dialogue on farm safety measures. However, over time we have observed that very few reports have been made about any gains made from the Rural Safety Strategy during Minister Bheki Cele's quarterly crime reports.

Not all farmers can afford expensive security measures to protect themselves against crime. Small to medium size commercial and family-owned farms already operate financially stressed farming enterprises and cannot afford expensive farm protection and surveillance measures.

**The DA has taken a decision to ask that your office considers appointing a Commission of Inquiry into the root cause of increasing farm murders and attacks in the country. Chapter 584(2)(f) of the Constitution states that the President is responsible for appointing commissions of inquiry. The Commission of Inquiry should also provide recommendations and comprehensive measures to safeguard our farming and rural communities against crime.**

I look forward to your prompt and favorable response to this request.

Thank you.

Kind Regards

Noko Masipa MP

*DA Shadow Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform*