



Home of the South African farmer • *Imaya lomlimi waseNingizimu Afrika • Tuiste van die Suid-Afrikaanse boer • Lehae la balimi ba Afrika Borwa*

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**BELEIDSKOMITEE
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Agri SA Annual Report 2013 | 2014

Landelike Veiligheid
Rural Safety

Kobus Breytenbach is aangewys as voorsitter van die Beleidskomitee vir Landelike Veiligheid, ondersteun deur Boeta du Toit as ondervoorsitter en Nico Smuts as dagbestuurslid. Kobus Visser tree op as funksionaris. Die Komitee se werksaamhede is toegespits op veiligheidsaspekte wat 'n impak het op landbouprodusente se persoonlike veiligheid en op algemene misdadigheid wat verhoed dat daar winsgewend geproduseer kan word.

POLISIE-AANGELEENTHEDE

Die Komitee het verskeie aspekte rakende polisiëring gedurende die verslagtydperk gehanteer, wat die volgende insluit:

• Arrestasie en aanhouding van verdagtes

Die bestaande polisiëriglyne en instruksie oor die arrestasie en aanhouding van verdagtes is volgens die polisie voldoende om onwettige arrestasiepraktyke te voorkom. Die komitee is steeds bekommerd dat die instruksie nie konsekwent op plaaslike vlak deur alle polisiebeamptes uitgevoer word nie, wat kan lei tot wederregtelike arrestasies. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisiediens (SAPD) het toelating aan die Komitee verskaf oor die polisie-instruksie wat handel oor arrestasies en aanhouding en onder watter omstandighede arrestasies uitgevoer mag word met/of sonder 'n lasbrief. Affiliasies is versoek om alle gevalle van wederregtelike arrestasie by die plaaslike stasiebevelvoerder en speurhoof asook by die Prioriteitskomitee van die SAPD aan te meld.

• Vuurwapen-wetgewing

Die interpretasie van polisiebeleid rakende die hernuwing van vuurwapenlisensies en bevoegdheidsertifikate het verwarring veroorsaak by lede. Die volgende toelating oor die korrekte interpretasie van die beleid is deur die polisie verskaf:

- Die bestaande groen vuurwapenlisensiekaart is nog geldig totdat 'n hof anders daaroor besluit;
- Die geldigheidstydperk van 'n bevoegdheidsertifikaat om 'n vuurwapen te besit word nou gekoppel aan die periode van die langsgeldende vuurwapenlisensie;
- Aansoek vir die hernuwing van lisensies en bevoegdheidsertifikate moet geskied 90 dae voordat sodanige lisensie en/of bevoegdheidsertifikaat verval; en
- Die geldigheidsduurte van nuut uitgereikte lisensies en bevoegdheidsertifikate word op die onderskeie kaarte duidelik uiteengesit.

Probleme met vuurwapenlisensies en bevoegdheidsertifikate moet eerstens op provinsiale vlak gehanteer word en indien gepaste oplossings nie gevind word nie, kan sodanige probleme skriftelik na Agri SA verwys word.

• Strategie vir landelike polisiestasies

Die Landelike Beveiligingsstrategie is die operasionele strategie van die polisie om landelike misdaad te bekamp. Ter ondersteuning van die strategie het die Nasionale



Kobus Breytenbach

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The Rural Strategy is the operational strategy of the police to combat crime in rural areas. In support of the strategy, the National Commissioner has given instructions that a strategy be developed for rural police stations.



Kobus Breytenbach was named chairman of the Rural Safety Policy Committee, and was supported by Boeta du Toit as vice chair and Nico Smuts as executive committee member. Kobus Visser served as functionary. The committee's activities focused on those safety aspects which have an impact on agricultural producers' personal safety and on general criminality which hampers profitable production.

POLICE MATTERS

The committee dealt with various aspects of policing during the report year, including the following:

• Arrest and detention of suspects

According to the police, the existing guidelines and instruction regarding the arrest and detention of suspects were sufficient to prevent unlawful arrests. The committee remains concerned that the instruction was not consistently applied at local level by all police officers, which could lead to unlawful arrests. The South African Police Service (SAPS) provided the committee with elucidation on the police instruction that deals with the arrest and detention of suspects and the circumstances under which arrests may be made with or without a warrant. Affiliates were requested to report all incidents of unlawful arrest to the local station commander and chief of detectives as well as to the priority committee of the SAPS.

• Firearm legislation

The interpretation of police policy on the renewal of firearm licences and competency certificates has caused confusion among members. The police have provided the following elucidation regarding the correct interpretation of the policy:

- The existing green firearm licence card remains valid until a court decides otherwise;
- The validity period of a certificate indicating competence to own a firearm is linked to the period of the firearm licence that is valid longest;
- Applications for the renewal of licences and competency certificates must take place 90 days before expiry of such licences and/or certificates; and
- The period for which newly issued licences and certificates are valid is set out clearly on the respective cards.

Problems with firearm licences and competency certificates must first be dealt with at provincial level. If suitable solutions cannot be found, such problems may be referred to Agri SA in writing.

• Strategy for rural police stations

The Rural Safety Strategy is the operational strategy of the police to combat crime in rural areas. In support of the strategy, the National Commissioner has given instructions that a strategy be developed for rural police stations. This strategy

Kommissaris opdrag gegee dat 'n strategie vir landelike polisiestasies ontwikkel moet word. Die strategie moet kriteria uiteensit waaraan elke landelike stasie moet voldoen om dienslewering aan die gemeenskap te verbeter.

Ter uitvoering van die ontwikkeling van die strategie is die polisie op nasionale vlak besig met 'n toeganklikheidsstudie waar daar onder meer ondersoek ingestel word na die toeganklikheid van polisiestasies vir gemeenskappe, afstande wat afgelê moet word na polisiestasies en dies meer. Ná afhandeling van die studie sal daar verder ondersoek ingestel word na personeel- en hulpbronbehoefte by die stasies.

• Groenskrif oor Polisiëring

Die Siviele Sekretariaat van die SAPD het 'n Groenskrif oor Polisiëring opgestel en vir kommentaar gepubliseer. Agri SA se kommentaar ná konsultasie met sy affiliasies is aan die Minister van Polisie asook die Siviele Sekretariaat van Polisie voorsien. Dr Johan Burger is deur Agri SA gemandateer om die organisasie se standpunte, soos opgeneem in sy kommentaar, oor te dra.

'n Groot hoeveelheid kommentaar is ontvang en oorweeg en die werkgroep aangestel deur die siviele sekretariaat van die Polisie het besluit om die Witskrifproses in twee gedeeltes te hanteer, naamlik:

- 'n Witskrif oor die Polisie as 'n struktuur; en
- 'n Witskrif wat in die breë oor polisiëring sal handel.

Die Witskrif oor die Polisie sal dien as platform vir die daarstel van die nuwe Polisiewet en die proses sal waarskynlik eers later die jaar afgehandel word.

• Veldtog teen gesteelde tweedehandse goedere

Die Siviele Sekretariaat van die Polisie het Agri SA genooi om deel te wees van 'n werkwinkel om 'n veldtog te ontwikkel waarvolgens die mark vir tweedehandse goedere beperk kan word. Die uitgangspunt met die veldtog is om gemeenskappe te sensitiseer om nie gesteelde goedere te koop of by sodanige mark betrokke te raak nie.

Die Wet op Tweedehandse Goedere maak voorsiening vir gereelde ondersoeke by skroothandelaars om voldoening aan die wet af te dwing. Waar dit die praktyk is, word goeie resultate behaal. Die komitee is van mening dat skroothandelaars wat by herhaling betrokke is by die onwettige handel in tweedehandse goedere, deur die batebeslagleggingseenheid ondersoek behoort te word. Vir die batebeslagleggingseenheid om by sodanige ondersoeke betrokke te raak, moet daar goeie getuigenis wees wat sodanige skroothandelaar impliseer.

Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag het onderneem om die toetrede van die batebeslagleggingseenheid by sodanige ondersoeke met hulle te bespreek en te bepaal op watter wyse die eenheid betrokke kan raak.

Provinsiale affiliasies behoort ook met hulle onderskeie provinsiale polisiekommissarisse in gesprek te tree en die Polisie te sensitiseer oor die aanwending van die batebeslagleggingseenheid, waar vermoed word dat skroothandelaars winste uit gesteelde goedere verdien.



must include criteria which each rural station must meet in order to improve service delivery to the community.

In order to develop such a strategy, the police at national level are conducting an accessibility study, among others, to look into the accessibility of police stations for communities, the distances that have to be travelled to police stations etc. After completion of the study, a further investigation will be conducted to determine staff and resource requirements at stations.

• Green Paper on Policing

The Civil Secretariat of the Police compiled a Green Paper on Policing, which was published for commentary. After consultation with affiliates, Agri SA's commentary was submitted to the Minister of Police as well as the civil secretariat of Police. Dr Johan Burger was mandated by Agri SA to introduce the organisation's views as contained in its commentary into the process.

A large number of comments were received and considered. The working group appointed by the civil secretariat of Police decided to deal with the White Paper process in two parts, namely:

- A White Paper on the Police as a structure; and
- A White Paper that would deal broadly with policing.

The White Paper on the Police will serve as platform for formulating the new Police Act and the process will probably only be finalised later in the year.

• Gemeenskapspoliëeringsbeleid

Agri SA het op uitnodiging van die SAPD deelgeneem aan 'n werkwinkel om beleid oor gemeenskapspoliëering te ontwikkel. Die doel van die werkwinkel was:

- Om 'n beleid te ontwikkel in ooreenstemming met bestaande beleid en wetgewing;
- Om 'n platform daar te stel om sektorpoliëering te implementeer; en
- Om 'n gestruktureerde gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid daar te stel om misdaad te voorkom en Suid-Afrikaners veiliger te laat voel.

'n Stuurkomitee is ná afloop van die konferensie getaak om 'n beleidsdokument te ontwikkel en beskikbaar te stel. Sodra die dokument voltooi is, sal dit aan affiliasies beskikbaar gestel word vir kommentaar.

• Reservistebeleidsraamwerk

Die Minister van Polisie en die Nasionale Kommissaris het reeds die beleid en instruksie goedgekeur. Die implementering van die reservistestelsel sal in die volgende fases plaasvind:

- Beplanningsfase: April 2014–Junie 2014, wat insluit die uitfasering van die bestaande stelsel en die infasering van die goedgekeurde stelsel;
- Kommunikasiefase: Julie 2014–September 2014, wat insluit toeligtingsessies in alle provinsies; en
- Implementeringsfase: Oktober 2014–Maart 2015, wat insluit die werwing van lede, prosessering van aansoeke en opleiding.

Die komitee ag die effektiewe implementering van die reservistestelsel van groot belang vir die bevordering van landelike veiligheid deur die landelike beveiligingsstrategie en het 'n beroep op affiliasies en lede gedoen om dit te ondersteun.

• Sektorpoliëering

Die Nasionale Instruksie oor Sektorpoliëering bevat die minimumstandaarde vir implementering van die konsep op stasievlak. Die Komitee is van mening dat gemeenskappe nie vir die polisie moet wag om na hulle uit te reik nie, maar dat die inisiatief geneem moet word om met die polisie te skakel. Waar probleme in sodanige gevalle ervaar word, kan die Gemeenskapspoliëeringsforum (GPF) in 'n uitreik-aksie gebruik word. Waar gereelde interaksie plaasgevind het, het dit geleidelik tot die verbetering van gesindhede en beter samewerking.

• Vrywilligers in misdaadbekamping

'n Konsep-beleidsdokument wat beoog om vrywilligers in misdaadbekamping te reguleer, is deur die SAPD ontwikkel en vir kommentaar aan affiliasies beskikbaar gestel. Met dié beleid wil die polisie poog om beter beheer toe te pas oor veral vrywillige strukture wat by misdaadbekamping betrokke is en by die GPF geaffilieer is. Die beleid is nie van toepassing op vrywillige strukture wat onafhanklik funksioneer nie. Hierdie strukture kan wel 'n memorandum van verstandhouding met hul

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• Campaign against stolen second-hand goods

The Civil Secretariat of the Police invited Agri SA to participate in a workshop to develop a campaign to restrict the marketing of second-hand goods. The point of departure of such a campaign was to sensitise communities and encourage them not to buy stolen goods or to become involved in such a market.

The Second-hand Goods Act makes provision for regular inspections at scrap dealers to enforce compliance with the law. Where this is the practice, good results are achieved. The committee is of the opinion that scrap dealers who are repeatedly involved in illegal trade in second-hand goods should be investigated by the assets forfeiture unit. For the asset forfeiture unit to become involved in such investigations, there must be solid evidence which implicates the scrap dealer.

The National Prosecuting Authority has undertaken to discuss the involvement of the asset forfeiture unit in such investigations and to determine in what way the unit can become involved.

Provincial affiliates should also hold discussions with their respective provincial police commissioners and the police should be sensitised about the use of the asset forfeiture unit where it is suspected that scrap dealers earn profits from stolen goods.

• Community policing policy

At the invitation of the police, Agri SA participated in a workshop to develop a policy on community policing. The purpose of the workshop was as follows:

- To develop a policy in line with existing policy and legislation;
- To create a platform for implementing sector policing; and
- To encourage structured community involvement to prevent crime and to help South Africans feel safer.

After the conference, a steering committee was tasked with the development and release of a policy document. As soon as the document is available, it will be sent to affiliates for commentary.

• Reservist policy framework

The Minister of Police and the National Commissioner have already approved the policy and instruction. Implementation of the reservist system will take place in the following phases:

- Planning phase: April 2014–June 2014, which included phasing out of the existing system and phasing in of the approved system;
- Communication phase: July 2014–September 2014, which includes elucidation sessions in all provinces; and
- Implementation phase: October 2014–March 2015, which includes the recruitment of members, processing of applications and training.

The committee deems the effective implementation of the reservist system as very

plaaslike polisie aangaan om hulle werksaamhede beter te koördineer. Indien 'n plaasweg by die GPF geaffilieer is, sal hulle aan die beleid moet voldoen.

Agri SA het kommentaar op die beleidsdokument gelewer, nadat insette vanaf affiliasies ontvang is.

LANDELIKE BEVEILIGING

Landelike Beveiligingstrategie

Gedurende die vorige finansiële jaar is die finale implementering van die strategie by die 910 landelike polisiestasies gedoen. Die Siviele Sekretariaat van die Polisie is tans besig met 'n opname oor die implementering van die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie. 'n Opname onder affiliasies het verskeie uitdagings met die implementering van die strategie uitgewys wat reeds in 'n verslag saamgestel is en aan die voorsitter van die prioriteitskomitee asook die Siviele Sekretariaat van die Polisie voorsien is vir optrede. Die Nasionale Kommissaris is ook versoek om die nodige hulpbronne aan die Polisie beskikbaar te stel om die strategie suksesvol te implementeer. Die uitdagings met implementering is ook aan die Nasionale Kommissaris uitgewys en Agri SA sal voortgaan om deur middel van provinsiale affiliasies die implementering daarvan te monitor.

Gesprek met AfriForum

In opvolging van 'n vorige gesprek oor AfriForum se toetreding tot die landelike beveiligingsterrein het 'n verdere gesprek plaasgevind in 'n poging om Agri SA en AfriForum se onderskeie rolle in die landelike omgewing duideliker uit te spel. Daar is ooreengekom dat Agri SA binne sy mandaat fokus op landelike veiligheid en AfriForum op dorps-gemeenskappe se veiligheid. Om die rolle duideliker uit te spel en same-werking beter te definieer, word daar tans gewerk aan 'n ooreenkoms wat onder meer kommunikasie sal versterk, maar wat ook erkenning sal gee aan die onderskeie organisasies se unieke rolle om die veiligheid van landelike en



important for the promotion of rural safety through the rural protection strategy and has called on affiliates and members to support it.

• Sector policing

The National Instruction on Sector Policing contains the minimum standards for implementation of the concept at station level. The committee is of the opinion that communities should not wait for the police to reach out to them but should take the initiative to liaise with the police. Where problems are experienced in such cases, the Community Policing Forum (CPF) can be used in the outreach action. Where regular interaction took place, it has led to an improvement in attitudes and better cooperation.

• Volunteers in crime-fighting

A draft policy document that is intended to regulate crime-fighting volunteers has been developed by the police and made available to affiliates for comment. With this policy the police will attempt to exercise better control, especially over voluntary structures that are involved in crime-fighting and affiliated with the GPF. The policy is not applicable to voluntary structures that function independently. These structures may, however, enter into a memorandum of understanding with their local police to better coordinate their activities. If a farm watch is affiliated with the GPF, they will have to comply with the policy.

Agri SA provided commentary on the policy document after inputs had been received from its affiliates.

RURAL SAFETY

Rural Safety Strategy

During the previous financial year, the final implementation of the strategy took place at 910 rural police stations. The Civil Secretariat of the Police is currently conducting a survey on the implementation of the Rural Protection Strategy. A survey among affiliates identified various challenges in relation to the implementation of the strategy, which have already been compiled in a report and submitted to the chair of the priority committee as well as the Civil Secretariat of Police for further action. The National Commissioner was also requested to make the necessary resources available to the police to implement the strategy successfully. The National Commissioner was also informed of these challenges and Agri SA will continue to monitor the implementation of the strategy via its provincial affiliates.

Discussion with AfriForum

In follow-up to a previous discussion on AfriForum's entry into the rural protection arena, a further discussion took place in an attempt to clarify Agri SA and AfriForum's roles within the rural environment. It was agreed that Agri SA would focus its mandate on rural safety, while AfriForum would concentrate on the safety of communities in towns. To spell out these roles more clearly and to define co-operation, an agreement is being drafted that will, among other things, strengthen communication but also recognise the respective organisations' unique roles



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DNA-wetgewing

Die 'Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill (2/2008) is in 2013 deur die Parlement goedgekeur en deur die President onderteken. Die wet maak voorsiening vir die insameling en aanwending van DNA as bewysstuk by 'n misdadatoeneel. Forensiese DNA-bewysstukke speel 'n belangrike rol in misdad-ondersoeke omdat:

- Dit help met die identifisering en skuldigbevinding van verdagtes wat skuldig is aan 'n misdryf; en
- Dat dit gebruik kan word om die onskuld van verdagtes wat verkeerdelik gevonnissen is vir 'n misdryf te bewys.

Die komitee het 'n beroep gedoen op affiliasies om dié inligting ook aan hulle lede beskikbaar te stel.

Protokol vir Plaastoegang

Druk deur sommige nie-regeringsorganisasies en staatsdepartemente om die toepassing van die Protokol vir Plaastoegang te skrap, het daartoe gelei dat dit hersien is. Die Landelike Beveiligingstrategie maak egter voorsiening vir die implementering van so 'n protokol ter bevordering van landelike veiligheid. Enkele wysigings is aan die protokol gedoen nadat kommentaar vanaf affiliasies daarop ontvang is. Die komitee bly egter bekommerd oor die groot getal boere wat nie die protokol toepas nie en ook nie die protokolbord by toepaslike ingangroetes aanbring nie. Ten einde die protokol doeltreffend toe te pas, moet boerelede dit landwyd konsekwent implementeer. Die komitee waarsku egter dat die protokol nie gebruik moet word om instansies met 'n statutêre reg toegang te weier nie – dit kan die voortbestaan daarvan in gedrang bring.

in promoting the safety of communities in rural areas and towns within their own mandate.

DNA legislation

The Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill (2/2008) was approved by Parliament in 2013 and signed by the President. The legislation makes provision for the gathering and use of DNA as evidence at the crime scene. Forensic DNA evidence plays an important role in crime investigations in that:

- It helps with the identification and conviction of crime suspects; and
- It can be used to prove the innocence of suspects who had been convicted of a crime they did not commit.

The committee called on affiliates to make this information available to their members.

Protocol for Farm Access

Pressure exerted by some non-governmental organisations and state departments to scrap the Protocol for Farm Access has led to the review thereof. The Rural Safety Strategy, however, makes provision for the implementation of such a protocol to promote rural safety. A few amendments were made to the protocol after commentary was received from affiliates. The committee remains concerned, however, about the large number of farmers who do not apply the protocol and also do not erect the relevant notices along entrance roads. In order to apply the protocol effectively, farmer members must implement it consistently countrywide. The committee warned, however, that the protocol should not be used to refuse entry to institutions that have a statutory right of access as this could affect the future thereof.

Independent Electoral Commission

Agri SA and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had previously signed a protocol setting out the rules for access to farms by the IEC and political parties. The IEC protocol states essentially that the farm access protocol would be used for the IEC to gain access to farms for training purposes and that all political parties would hold their meetings at off-farm public venues. During a workshop held at Agri SA's request, the existing protocol arrangements were reaffirmed. The information was also sent to affiliates for use during the 2014 general election.

Integrity of border farms

With the return of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to protect the international borders, there are currently 13 companies deployed along international borders. The goal is to deploy 21 companies in total. The SANDF achieved the following successes at the national border during the period April 2013 to February 2014:

- Arrests of undocumented persons: 21 349;

Onafhanklike Verkiesingskommissie

Agri SA en die Onafhanklike Verkiesingskommissie (OVK) het voorheen 'n protokol onderteken waarin die reëls uiteengesit word vir toegang tot plase deur die OVK en politieke partye. Die OVK-protokol bepaal in wese dat die plaastoegangprotokol gebruik sal word waardeur die OVK toegang tot plase sal verkry vir opleidingsdoeleindes en dat alle politieke byeenkomste op openbare plekke weg van plase gehou sal word. Tydens 'n werkwinkel wat op versoek van Agri SA plaasgevind het, is die bestaande protokolreëlings weer bevestig. Die inligting is ook aan affiliasies voorsien vir gebruik tydens die 2014-verkiesing.

Integriteit van grensplase

Met die terugkeer van die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag (SANDF) tot die beskerming van internasionale grense is daar tans 13 kompanies aan die internasionale grens ontplooi en streef die weermag daarna om in totaal 21 kompanies te ontplooi. Die volgende suksesse aan die landsgrens is deur die weermag behaal in die periode April 2013 tot Februarie 2014:

- Arrestasie van ongedokumenteerde persone: 21 349;
- Beslag is gelê op sowat R32 miljoen se verbode middels;
- Altesaam 34 vuurwapens is gevind;
- Sowat 12 ton dagga is gekonfiskeer;
- 2 332 stuks gesteelde vee is teruggevind;
- 74 gesteelde voertuie is teruggevind; en
- 451 arrestasies is gedoen.

'n Protokol waarin reëls vir toegang tot grensplase uiteengesit word (dit is die gebied 10 km van die internasionale grens), is saamgestel. Ná goedkeuring deur die komitee van die konsep-protokol moet dit nou verder met die weermag onderhandel word.

Grondbesettings

Die grondbesettings-inligtingsdokument wat Agri SA opgestel het, is nadat wysigings deur die komitee goedgekeur is, aangepas en aan alle affiliasies versprei vir gebruik op boereverenigingvlak. Dié dokument is deur 'n advokaat bevraagteken en sy kommentaar daarop is wyd versprei, wat onsekerheid by boerelede gebring het oor die status van Agri SA se dokument. 'n Regsmening wat Agri SA aangevra het en deur 'n senior advokaat verskaf is, het aangedui dat Agri SA se inligting relevant en korrek is.

VEEDIEFSTAL

Veediefstaleenheid se werksaamhede

Nasionale veediefstalstatistieke vir die periode 1 Julie 2013 tot 31 Desember 2013 word soos volg aangedui:

- 29 254 beeste is gesteel
- 40 539 skape is gesteel
- 17 649 bokke is gesteel

- Prohibited substances valued at approximately R32 million were confiscated;
- 34 firearms were found;
- 12 ton dagga was confiscated;
- 2 332 stolen cattle were recovered;
- 74 stolen vehicles were recovered; and
- 451 arrests were made.

A protocol setting out the rules for access to border farms (i.e. the area within 10 km from the international border) was compiled. The draft protocol has been approved by the committee and must now be further negotiated with the defence force.

Land invasions

The land invasion information document that was compiled by Agri SA after changes were approved by the committee was distributed to all affiliates for use at farmer association level.

This document was queried by an advocate and his commentary thereon was distributed widely. This created uncertainty among farmer members regarding the status of Agri SA's document. A legal opinion requested by Agri SA and provided by a senior advocate indicated that Agri SA's document had been relevant and correct.

STOCK THEFT

Stock theft unit's activities

National stock theft statistics for the period 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013 were as follows:

- 29 254 head of cattle stolen
- 40 539 sheep stolen
- 17 649 goats stolen



Die waarde van die beeste wat gesteel is, beloop nagenoeg R304 miljoen, skape R68 miljoen en bokke R34 miljoen.

Volgens die Nasionale Veediefstaleenheid is in 38 sake swaarder vonnisse as in die verlede, opgelê aan veediewe en in 22 sake is vonnisse van vyf jaar en meer opgelê. Dit is opmerklik dat, by skuldigbevinding, veediewe swaarder vonnisse opgelê word. Verskeie veediefstaloperasies is in provinsies gehou, wat positiewe resultate opgelewer het.

Skutwet

Die Departement van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserie, wat verantwoordelik is vir die finalisering van die Skutwet, meld dat hulle 'n groot aantal insette op die wetsontwerp ontvang het. Een van die tekortkominge in die konsep was die weglating van private skutte, wat nou ingesluit is en dat verskeie definisies aangepas moes word. Die beginsel van die gebruik van skutte as kwarantynstasies word ook tans oorweeg. Sodra die skutwet afgehandel is, sal dit aan die staatsregsadviseurs gegee word vir oorweging en terselfdertyd beoog die departement om die wet vry te stel vir verdere kommentaar.

Slagofferregte

Die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag het die dokument oor slagofferregte in samewerking met Agri SA aangepas en met die regte kontakbesonderhede van die onderskeie direkteure van openbare vervolging opgedateer. Die volgende aspekte waaraan aandag geskenk word, is deur die Vervolgingsgesag toegelig:

- Die Vervolgingsgesag is tans besig met die opleiding van aanklaers ten opsigte van die effektiewer hantering van veediefstal-aangeleenthede;
- Die Justisie Kollege beoog die implementering van kursusse wat aanklaers kan bywoon om opleiding te ondergaan in die hantering van veediefstalsake;
- Strenger optrede, voortspruitend uit dossiere wat aan staatsaanklaers vir vervolging voorgelê is, word beoog teen vee-eienaars wat hulle gereeld skuldig maak aan die oortreding van die vee-identifikasiewet; en
- Die skade wat misdaad tot gevolg het vir 'n slagoffer asook die impak daarvan op 'n slagoffer se gesin, word in howe as strafverswarende omstandighede gebruik.

Erkenning

Lede van die boerderygemeenskap en personeel van provinsiale affiliasies in besonder, die veiligheidsverteenwoordigers, wat op verskeie vlakke bydraes lewer in 'n poging om die veiligheid van medeboere te verseker, verdien erkenning en waardering vir die werk wat hulle op 'n deurlopende basis doen.

'n Besondere woord van dank gaan aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag, die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisiediens, die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag (NVG) en alle ander veiligheidsverteenwoordigers vir hulle ondersteuning aan die beleidskomitee en hul voortgesette betrokkenheid by die bekamping van landelike misdaad.

Die waarde van die beeste wat gesteel is, beloop nagenoeg R304 miljoen, skape R68 miljoen en bokke R34 miljoen. Dit is opmerklik dat, by skuldigbevinding, veediewe swaarder vonnisse opgelê word.



The value of the cattle, sheep and goats stolen amounted to approximately R304 million, R68 million and R34 million respectively.

According to the National Stock Theft Unit heavier sentences were imposed in 38 stock theft cases than in the past, while in 22 cases sentences of five and more years were imposed. It is significant that on conviction, stock thieves received heavier sentences. Various stock theft operations were carried out in the provinces, which produced positive results.

Pound Act

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, which is responsible for finalising this legislation, mentioned that they had received a large number of inputs towards the bill. One of the shortcomings in the draft was the omission of private pounds which had not been included, and that various definitions had to be reworded. The principle of the use of pounds as quarantine stations is currently being considered. As soon as the legislation has been finalised, it will be submitted to the state legal advisors for consideration. The department intends to release it at the same time for further commentary.

Victim rights

The National Prosecuting Authority adjusted the document on victim rights in consultation with Agri SA and updated it with the correct contact details of the respective directors of public prosecution. The Prosecuting Authority provided elucidation on the following aspects that are receiving attention:

- The Prosecuting Authority is currently providing training to prosecutors to ensure more effective handling of stock theft cases;
- The Justice College intends to implement courses that prosecutors can attend to receive training in the effective handling of stock theft cases;
- In light of dossiers submitted to state prosecutors, firmer action is envisaged against livestock owners who fail to comply with the Animal Identification Act; and
- The damage suffered by a victim as a result of crime as well as the impact thereof on the victim's family is used in courts as aggravating circumstances when sentences are imposed.

Acknowledgement

Members of the farming community and the staff of provincial affiliates, in particular, and the security representatives who made a contribution at various levels in an attempt to ensure the safety of fellow farmers, deserve recognition and appreciation for the work they do on an ongoing basis.

A special word of thanks is extended to the South African National Defence Force, the South African Police Service, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and all other security representatives for their support of the policy committee and their continued involvement in combating rural crime.