

STATEMENT ON THE RECENT MEDIA REPORTS ON LAND AND AGRARIAN REFORM

I have noted with concern recent subjective media reports on land and agrarian reform. It is very regrettable that the media did not consult my office or any MECs or the Departments of Agriculture and Land Affairs, to ensure that their reporting is objective and complies with all the relevant standards set for free and unconstrained journalism to flourish. It should be noted that we treasure the role a free media plays in ensuring our hard fought democracy thrives. Had the media consulted with us, the reports would have been holistic, accurate and within a proper context. There are a number of institutions and political parties who fanfare negative reports about land reform and whose agenda is to perpetuate the status quos. The reality is that most South Africans reside in rural areas, and rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The ANC has in the Polokwane Resolutions and the Manifesto impressed upon the need to fast track land and agrarian reform as it is the only vehicle that can significantly impact on poverty eradication, rural development, food security and economic growth.

The recent media reports mysteriously suggest that the land reform programme is killing agriculture, and that since the implementation of the programme, South Africa has become a net importer of food.