16 November 2026

Mr M. Nyhontso, MP
Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development
Department of Land Reform and Rural Development
600 Lilian Ngoyi Street
PRETORIA
0001

By e-mail: [redacted]

CC: Mr S.F. Xaba, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development, [redacted]

CC:

Mr W. Aucamp, MP
Minister of Agriculture
AgriculturePlace
20 Steve Biko (Formerly Beatrix) Street
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0002

By e-mail: [redacted]

CC: Mrs A. Barnard, Director Admin of the Office of the Minister of Agriculture, [redacted]

CC: Mr K. Maluleka, Deputy Secretary-General, Limamilimi Farmers Association, [redacted]

Dear Minister

REQUEST FOR URGENT INTERVENTION: FARMERS' LAND TENURE CRISIS IN THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Your urgent intervention is required in an ongoing land tenure crisis in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality that is caused by the conduct of provincial officials. The crisis has devastating consequences for the people and farming operations affected by it.

Limamlimi Farmers Association (LiFA) brought this matter to your attention, but has not received any feedback from your office, even after following up on the matter.

I attach a detailed list of 75 affected persons to this letter, which illustrates the magnitude of the problem. Many of the persons affected have been utilising and occupying farms for many years, even decades, yet they are unable to obtain ownership or long-term lease agreements that would provide them with the required security of tenure that would enable them to farm and also secure access to finance for farming operations. Some farmers originally signed

agreements to lease with the option to buy, but were not enabled to exercise the option to buy after the 1994 transition.

Farming requires long-term planning, capital investment and operational expenditure and simply cannot be successful without long-term security of tenure. Due to the lack of tenure security, some farming operations have been devastated, leaving families destitute and have also resulted in loss of life. The lack of ownership and lease agreements further prevents farmers from properly defending their land in case of illegal occupation and mining, farm hijacking and other criminal activities.

It is very concerning that lease agreements, agricultural inputs and access to financial support, including grants, development funding and agricultural loan opportunities, are seemingly being used by officials of the provincial department in some cases as a form of 'reward', rather than being administered through a fair, transparent and lawful process. This creates the impression of favouritism, abuse of power and corruption in the awarding of lease agreements and agricultural support. The provincial department claims that contracts cannot be concluded with farmers, yet contracts have in fact been concluded with a few of them. It is evident that this is not being handled in accordance with the principles of just administrative action. The establishment of Communal Property Associations (CPAs) and the opaque and questionable allocation of land to these CPAs, land that has been used and occupied by farmers, are threatening the viability of farming operations and have already led to violence and also warrant urgent investigation.

The conduct and lack of response from government send a message that the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development is not serious about securing long-term security of tenure and land ownership for emerging, small-scale and commercial farmers who are currently dependent on state-owned land, despite the statements made by officials. What other reasoning can explain why officials continue to deny the majority of farmers secure, long-term tenure or ownership of land even though many of the farmers and their families have lived on these farms and cultivated the land for decades?

Mr Kurhula Maluleka, Deputy Secretary-General of LiFA ([redacted], [redacted]) can provide any further information you may require. I am also willing and able to facilitate the provision of additional information or meetings with the stakeholders if that can be of assistance.

Your urgent intervention can prevent further loss of agricultural production, human dignity and lives in an area that has seen large-scale losses in productivity and human suffering.

Your urgent intervention in this matter will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Barend P. Uys
Head: Intercultural Relations and Cooperation
AfriForum
[redacted]
[redacted]

No.	Full Name	Organisation / Farm Name	Designation	Hectare	Farm No. years	Claim	Previous Projects
1	[redacted]	Wolwedierend Plot 91	Farmer	480	Not provided	no	Not provided
2		439JR Roodepoort	Farmer	359	18	yes	Livestock
3		Farm 15 Klipdrift	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
4		Plot 60	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
5		Taaifontein	Farmer	270	Not provided	no	cows,goat,beans
6		Enkeldorenspruit	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	no	cows,goat,maize
7		330 Rooiport	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
8		Leeuwkraal Portion 4/3	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
9		Paradise Farming	Director	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
10		Papkuilfontein JR 207	Farmer	398	Not provided	no	cows,sunflower
11		Enkeldoornspoort No:207	Farmer	948	Not provided	no	cows,goat,maize
12		Portion 69, 419 Heartbeesfontein	Farmer	333	39	no	Crop, Livestock
13		138 Blesbok	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
14		Rietfontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
15		Valschspruit 126	Farmer	476	24	not sure	Livestock and crop
16		Swaartkoppies 459	Farmer	650	Not provided	no	cows,maize
17		148 Blesbok Fontein	Farmer	286	30	yes	Not provided
18		Unit 16 Rietfontein Farm	Farmer	870	Not provided	no	cows,goat,no
19		Kilpdrift 96	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	no	cows,no
20		Unit 7 Skoonwater, Rietfontien	Farmer	2362	10	yes	cows,goat,no
21		C14 Klipfontein 256JS	Farmer	133	18	no	Vegetable Production
22		434 Hartebeespruit	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
23		Plot 174 Yestrevarkfortine	Farmer	619	39	not sure	Livestock
24		Mahlangu's Farmers	Member	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
25		Farm Rietfontein 174	Farmer	619	29	yes	cows,no
26		Unit 315	Farmer	865	43	yes	Livestock
27		93 JS Hartebeess...	Farmer	450	Not provided	yes	cows,no
28		Rietfontein Unit 16	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	yes	cows,no
29		446 Zusterstroom; Rietfontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
30		Hartebeespruit 434 JR	Farmer	230	41	no	Livestock, Vegetables, beekeeping
31		Hartebeespruit	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
32		469JR Papkuilfontein	Farmer	323	39	yes	Livestock, Grain, Poultry,
33		318 Rietfontein 214 JR	Farmer	785	42	yes	Livestock and Crop
34		Taaifontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
35		Wolverdiend plt 91	Farmer	400	Not provided	yes	cows,no
36		174 Ystervarkfontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
37		Tron platia	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	no	cows,maize
38		161 Paaitfontein	Farmer	80	Not provided	no	Cows, goat,soya
39		O Bos Belt	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
40		Unit 348 Vaalboschpruit	Farmer	339	37	no	Crop production, piggery and vegetable production.
41		Unit 72 Wolwegat	Manager	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
42		Van Dyk Spruit Plot 386 Jr 431	Farmer	441	30	not sure	farming livestock and ploughing
43		Little Pecan 341 Zusterhoek	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided

44	[redacted]	Wolvenkop Plot 88	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
45		340 Ysterhoek	Farmer	700	Not provided	no	cows,goat,
46		Loopspruit plot 187 JR 435	Farmer	600	39	not sure	Livestock and crop
47		170 Ystervarkfontein	Farmer	300	36	yes	poultry,no
48		Wolvenkop Unit 55	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
49		44 Leeuwkop, Verena JR228	Farmer	719	Not provided	yes	Cattle, grain
50		204 Verina	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
51		171 Ystervarkfontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
52		340 JR	Son of leasee	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
53		Welverdiend plot 88 Jr 249	Farmer	209	24	not sure	Livestock and crop
54		Taaifontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
55		88 Doorenek	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
56		Hertzorg	Farmer	1300	Not provided	no	Not provided
57		468 Jr Unit 203 Papkuilfountein	Farmer	171	18	yes	Mixed farming
58		Portion 6789, Papkuilfontein) Unit 213,	Daughter/Farmer	516	39	yes	Crop and livestock
59		435 JR, Mahlangu Farm Works Roodepoort	Farmer	400	44	yes	Grain, ground nuts, Livestock
60		Loopsruit farm plot 185 JR435	Farmer	287	38	not sure	Crop and livestock
61		Unit.131.of.valschspruit	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
62		VALSCHSPRUIT UNIT 122 OF JR 458	Farmer	258	49	not sure	Maize and Soya
63		Papkuilfountein	Farmer	400	36	yes	Mixed farming
64		391 Sybrandskraal 377	Farmer	999	36	No	Mixed Farming
65		459 JR Blesbokfontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
66		618JR Rietfontein	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
67		Paper Crown Valschspruit	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
68		Mooitgedacht (unclear)	Farmer	190	Not provided	yes	cows,goat,maize
69		217 Rietfontein 470JR	Farmer	470	34	yes	Mixed farming
70		Unit 90 Welverdiend	Farmer	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
71		Loopspruit 435 JR	Farmer	314	37	no	Crop, Livestock
72		Portion 1 and 11, Rietfontein 470JR	Farmer	219	39	not sure	Crop, Livestock
73		350 VandykSpruit.431Jr	Farmer	162	39	no	no,soya
74		Incomplete	Farmer	314	39	no	Crop
75		Unit 136 Blesbokfontein	Farmer	250	Not provided	yes	cows,maize