

SACP MOSES MABHIDA PROVINCE MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

INKANDLA (KWAZULU-NATAL)

17 November 2012

To be delivered to the Minister for Rural Development Honourable
Comrade Gugile Nkwinti

We, as the South African Communist Party (SACP) in the Moses Mabhida Province, wish to convey our support to this administration's efforts to develop rural areas which for centuries have been neglected by successive colonial and apartheid regimes.

We know that for centuries, under successive colonial and apartheid regimes, rural areas have been neglected and used as a reserve army of labour and a dumping ground for unwanted and exhausted labour force.

We have noted that the slow pace of land redistribution and restitution has been painfully slow much to the disadvantage of rural areas.

We were delighted on the release of Green Paper on land, however we are very worried at the slow pace of processing this Green Paper on Land Reform into a Policy Paper.

This delay is an injustice to the deserving rural masses who have waited for more than 350 years.

This slow pace has been mostly as a result of the failed willing seller – willing buyer policy which has finally become the “unwilling buyer – greedy seller” policy.

We say this because hundreds of millions of rands of tax payers money have been spent in this policy which has become a get-rich quick scheme for white farmers who have sold land to the state at highly inflated prices that are way above its market value.

We know that under this administration led by His Excellency President Jacob Zuma more efforts have been made towards the development of rural areas throughout the country especially in provinces with the highest levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality such as:

- i) Eastern Cape
- ii) Limpopo and,
- iii) KwaZulu-Natal

We believe that the attack on these efforts, which manifest itself in the vilification of development projects that are taking place in the area of Inkandla is a broader assault on the rural development matters which is spearheaded by elitist interest groups who are determined to isolate rural masses from the broader national transformation agenda.

We say this because while to the elitist groups the construction of R2 billion road in rural areas is a wasteful expenditure, to us it is an extension of the rights of which we as taxpaying citizens of this country are entitled to like all citizens of the Republic.

Realising the sustained onslaught on this administration’s rural development programmes, we demand the following:

1. We demand that a substantial percentage of the National Budget be allocated to rural development. A major portion of this should be allocated to rural transport, education, health and agrarian reform.
2. We also demand a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the reason for slow pace of land reform and whether the state has not been swindled through overcharging in the land restitution programme, for example in the Dube Village land restitution settlement. This should include all allegations of fraud corruption in the process of land restitution and redistribution.

3. We demand that the department should not be distracted by the noise around eh development that is taking place in Inkandla. These pilot projects in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal should continue unabated until there is a complete roll-out in all impoverished rural areas.

Ends

Signed on behalf of Rural Development Department

Honourable Minister G. Nkwinti:

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Signed on behalf of the South African Communist Party (SACP)

Comrade Themba Mthembu – SACP Provincial Secretary

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