

REPORT OF

THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

INTO FARM ATTACKS

31 JULY 2003

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FOREWORD

The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Farm Attacks has been a long time in the making. The Committee was appointed on 4 April 2001, and it was then hoped that it would be able to bring out its findings before the end of that year. It became clear to the Committee very quickly that it could not do so. There were many reports and other literature on farm attacks in existence already, and to bring out another one quickly, would have served no purpose at all. The Committee would only have laid itself open to accusations of superficiality. Furthermore, much of the previous work done was also responsible for some incorrect perceptions about farm attacks, and the Committee therefore decided not only to conduct its own research, but also to evaluate the work done already.

Unfortunately, much of the statistical information that the Committee required simply was not available at the time. In fact, many of the statistics used in this Report only became available after its appointment, and some were received as late as 2003. Some of the statistical information was assembled specifically at the request of the Committee, for which it wishes to thank the Crime Information Analysis Centre of the SAPS, both its head office in Pretoria as well as its provincial office in the Eastern Cape. Chief Joint Operations of the SANDF also produced useful statistics.

The Committee also wishes to thank all the other contributors - bodies or persons who made verbal and written submissions, or gave up their time for interviews. Some of them did so at their own personal expense, and spent much time in preparation. They are too many to mention. Some of their contributions are not mentioned or acknowledged in this Report. That is only for lack of space, and the contributions are all highly appreciated. The Committee also wishes to express its appreciation for the assistance it received from the office of the Component: Operational Coordination of the SAPS in Pretoria, where the Committee performed most of its formal work. Many of their staff also gave much of their time.

This report is not going to satisfy everybody, and will challenge firmly held convictions of many interested persons and institutions. Farm attacks are not a simple phenomenon. They have many causes - some direct and some indirect. Furthermore, there are many precipitating factors leading to farm attacks, and there are many reasons why farm attacks happen the way they do. The Committee has analysed the phenomenon of farm attacks to the best of its abilities, and all possible sources of information have been examined thoroughly.

The wish of the Committee is that the readers of this report accept that the Committee has tried to be as comprehensive, unbiased and objective as possible.

Finally, the Committee would have liked to publish this Report also in Afrikaans, since

many, if not most, of its readers will be from the Afrikaans speaking community. Due to constraints of time that is not possible. The Committee therefore decided to have a fairly comprehensive summary in both Afrikaans and English at the end of the Report. The usual executive summary is therefore omitted.