

ASUF's position on Rural Safety

By

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Background

ASUF

AGRI SECTOR UNITY FORUM

- ▶ Agri-Sector Unity Forum (ASUF) was established in 2011
- ▶ Consisting of the following organisations
 - **AGDA** (Agricultural Development Agency)
 - **Fruit SA** (established commercial farmers);
 - **TAU SA** (established commercial farmers);
 - **AFASA** (Communal and Developing farmers);
 - **AgriSA** (Commercial farmers);
 - **SAAI** (Commercial Farmers);
 - **NAFU** (Communal and Developing farmers); and
 - **Vegetable Value Chain Roundtable** (Potato SA, etc.)



**Vegetable
Value Chain
Roundtable**

Why ASUF?

ASUF

AGRI SECTOR UNITY FORUM

Members of organised agriculture have increasingly realised that, despite differences between developing and established farmers, with one group still seeking means of production and the other looking for more market opportunities locally and abroad, **the sector cannot be as influential as possible as long as it remains divided**

ASUF Declaration of Intent

Strategic Intent

- Establish a united voice for the common interests of the broader agricultural sector in order to promote and grow the South African agricultural sector

Vision

- A united, prosperous and sustainable agricultural sector in SA

ASUF Milestone

ASUF

AGRI SECTOR UNITY FORUM

Under ASUF:

- Participating organisations can speak with a united voice on matters of common interest
- ASUF has presented the need to support growth of agriculture to the ruling party
- ASUF has provided strong opinions and recommendations of labour wages, land reform, AgriBEE and Rural Safety and Security
- Endeavours to have policy standpoints on various issues and thus proactively influencing policy reforms are a notable development within ASUF.
- Accordingly, the united sector has the potential to pool together a critical mass of resources and represent a balanced view (of both smallholder and large-scale farmers) on the policies required in the sector.

ASUF's Position on Rural Safety and security



AGRI SECTOR UNITY FORUM

ASUF has identified the need for a joint policy position on rural safety & Security for the following reasons:

- Farmers, farm workers and their families living in rural areas are considered **soft targets by criminals**.
- Rapid response by the SAPS is hampered by the remoteness of farms and **large distances between farms and rural towns**. Rural police stations are often isolated and responsible for vast policing areas.
- **High levels of poverty and unemployment** in rural areas create an opportunity for crime and are a particular challenge to policing.
- Farming communities are willing **to engage** in partnerships with the police to safeguard the communities.
- National and household **food security** is promoted by a prosperous agricultural sector.

ASUF's Position on Rural Safety (Continued)

ASUF

AGRI SECTOR UNITY FORUM

ASUF has identified the need for a joint policy position on rural safety for the following reasons:

- ▶ Due to the fact that the police are primarily responsible for rural safety, the implementation of the Rural Safety Strategy is of paramount importance.
- ▶ Government views the safety and security of the rural farming community as a priority.
- ▶ ASUF has declared war against GBV, especially in farming communities
- ▶ Rural farming communities contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the country as an important economic grouping.

Conclusion

- ASUF to **establish a working relationship** amongst farmers, farm workers, the police and departments within the Justice Crime Prevention Cluster in an effort to combat rural crime.
- Members of ASUF **to subscribe to a shared vision on crime prevention** and the efficiency of the police force.
- Farm workers shall not be subjected to any form of **harassment or abuse** which may lead to retaliation.
- ASUF members will **explore all possible opportunities** to encourage community involvement and participation in combating rural crime.
- Government and other stakeholder engagements will be conducted in an **open and transparent manner**.
- Promote and involve all role-players in a co-ordinated manner to **support improved police accessibility** and service delivery to rural farming communities.



Thank you

