



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS

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SAFDA LEADERS CONDEMN BAMPOEN KILLINGS

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) condemns the killing of two men who were shot dead on a farm at Bampoen just outside Mkhondo (Piet Retief). According to the statement that was issued by the Police the two men were allegedly searching for jobs when this incident happened. SAFDA is concerned with the ongoing incidents of farm murders that continue to take the lives of our black people.

SAFDA's Executive Chairman Dr Siyabonga Madlala says government needs to set an example with the accused as this cannot go on unpunished. "We are pleading with our government to deal decisively with this case. The willy-nilly butchering of harmless and defenseless Africans by white farmers is unacceptable. As an organisation that works with rural farmers and communities, we are very disturbed by what these white farmers did. We condemn it in strongest possible terms." says Dr Madlala.

Black lives matter. Farm workers' lives matter. The accused needs to be taught a lesson from their actions. As an organization that was formed to help black growers we are deeply disturbed by this incident. SAFDA was established on the 25th November 2015. When SAFDA was formed it was frustrated that real issues confronting black farmers were not being clearly articulated and acted upon. Our organization provides a vehicle for farmers, especially black farmers and communities to represent themselves in the sugar industry and in the broader agricultural fraternity. SAFDA is home for all progressive farmers – black and white, small, medium and large.

SAFDA will be visiting the bereaved Coka family on Monday morning to pay its respects and to show support to the family. "We will also be joining the civil society organizations who will be picketing outside Piet Retief magistrate's court on Monday as a way of showing our support to this cause. We shall be calling upon the courts to deny bail in this case." says Dr Madlala.

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