



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS

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SAFDA ENDS AFASA AFFILIATION TO SUPPORT A NEW COMMODITY FEDERATION

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) has taken a difficult decision to end its affiliation with the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA). Since its formation in 2015, SAFDA was always aligned with the vision, objectives and values of AFASA as an organisation that lobbied for and worked to protect and advance the interests for a black farmer in South Africa. Up to today, SAFDA was a member of AFASA in good standing and supported and co-hosted the AFASA AGM and 10 Year Anniversary held on the 16th to the 18th of October 2022.

AFASA has had to reflect on its track record and legacy of the past ten years of existence. One of the issues that was considered was the need to update its constitution, strengthen local structures and focus on organising AFASA farmers into commodities in order to ensure farmers are developed and supported in their path to commercialisation. Commodities engaged the AFASA leadership on these matters which were ignored. The AGM held on Sunday flouted the AFASA Constitution; the AFASA National Executive Committee was insular to issues raised and stubbornly resisted a call to engage on and resolve these issues. It became clear that the AFASA leadership is not committed to developing farmers but to holding positions for individual ends.

SAFDA together with leaders of other commodities that were affiliated to and funding AFASA, walked out of AFASA having been dealing with frustrations since Sunday, 16 October 2022, resolved to abandon their affiliation and association with AFASA. "It must be noted that as from today we are no more part of AFASA" said Dr Siyabonga Madlala, the Executive Chairman of SAFDA. The commodities leaders left the AFASA conference at the Durban ICC and met briefly in Mouth Edgecombe to agree on forming a structure that will be biased towards developing black farmers and mainstreaming them to get involved in serious agri markets and the value chains. "The structure will deal with and be led by real farmers not people who speak about farming but do not farm themselves" said Dr Siyabonga Madlala.

South African Farmers Development Association
Registration number 163-564 NPO

KwaShukela, 170 Flanders Drive
Mt Edgecombe, KwaZulu-Natal
P.O. Box 1769
Mt Edgecombe Country Club, 4301

031 508 7283
info@sa-fda.org.za
www.sa-fda.org.za



The Black Agri Commodities Federation (BACF) was born and launched. A media briefing was coordinated to publicly announce this very important development. Leaving the brief meeting of this afternoon, BACF leaders agreed to get founding documents and registration of BACF finalised. The office and support structure that will operationalise BACF will be agreed. The organisation aims to hit the ground running and start delivering to commodities that form the Federation. Commodities that are forming BACF are the African Game Ranchers Association (AGRA), African Poultry Producers (APP), Deciduous Fruit Development Chamber (DFDC), National Emerging Red Producers' Organisation (NERPO), South African Farmers Development Association, and the South African Grain Farmers Association (SAGRA).

A new chapter is being written for black farmers in South Africa that will see black farmers being united and their dignity being restored. Further developments will be communicated.

For Media Enquiries please contact:

Nondumiso Mlondo

SAFDA: Media and Communications Practitioner

073 296 5570

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