



**MEDIA STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS**

**DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 2021**

**A MUCH NEEDED FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR GROWERS FROM IDC**

The recent looting and riots experienced in KZN and Gauteng left a lot devastation in these two provinces the farming community was not left unscathed. Both black and white farmers, big and small suffered debilitating losses. SAFDA would like to thank Minister Patel and his department, who are the custodians of the sugar industry, together with Minister Didiza for their speedy response and interventions following the unrest.

Through the IDC, the DTIC has made approximately R84 million in funds available to sugar cane growers who suffered loss because of the unrest. The IDC's intention was to ensure flow of funds to the intended growers by the end of October to enable farmers to recover from the losses caused by the riots. We acknowledge and applaud the IDC for making the majority of this funding in the form of a grant so as to not put a further burden on those qualifying, struggling farmers within the sugarcane farming community.

Over 250 small scale farmers along the north and south coast will benefit from the relief to be provided by the IDC, this ensures that these small scale growers will be able to meet their financial obligations and stay in business. Small scale farming operations also represent a primary source of income for many rural households. Governments response to the challenges experienced by the small scale growers during this challenging time supports the view that the small scale growers are foundational to the sugar industry as stated in the Sugar Industry Masterplan.

SAFDA continues to express its gratitude to government for its continued support of the sugar industry and especially the small scale farmers who represent the poorest of the poor in our industry.

**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN: DR. SIYABONGA MADLALA**

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