

16 November 2018

Agbiz responds to the Constitutional Review Committee’s recommendation to amend the Constitution to provide for land expropriation without compensation

“Agbiz has noted with disappointment and concern the recommendation by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) to amend the Constitution of South Africa to explicitly make provision for land expropriation without compensation. Agbiz has consistently maintained that it is not necessary to amend the Constitution to effect land reform in South Africa, and this proposed amendment to the Constitution will impact negatively on much-needed investment and harm the economy”, Dr John Purchase, CEO of Agbiz, said today.

“The in-principle recommendation was however not surprising, given the sentiments expressed during the provincial public hearings and the announcement of the president of the ANC on 31 July 2018. It would however have been a positive and constructive step if the conditions under which land expropriation without compensation could take place had accompanied the CRC’s recommendations. Of critical importance now is the Constitution Amendment Bill or parliamentary motion that will need to be drafted and the detail that it contains on the conditions under which land expropriation without compensation will be given effect. Agbiz will engage on this Bill, as well as make oral submissions to Parliament”, Dr Purchase assured.

Dr Purchase added that the question of policy uncertainty still fully remains with us and will continue to impact negatively on the broader agriculture and agribusiness sectors, and also

play on sentiment in the economy as a whole. Clarity on the exact wording and any accompanying legal amendments remains essential to turn the economy around and stimulate growth and job creation. Constructive engagement with government and Parliament remains the only plausible way to resolve the land question in South Africa.

ENQUIRIES:

Dr John Purchase, Agbiz CEO

Tel: 012 807 6686

Mobile: 082 441 2308

E-mail: john@agbiz.co.za