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1

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Report on farm attacks

* Request for Government subsidy

The interim report from the Committee of Inquiry into Farm Attacks "urges the farming community to give serious immediate attention to the matter of security. The Committee feels strongly that many potential attacks can be averted by the farming community stepping up security and being alert, thereby saving lives." The report also refers to campaigns by the SAPS and the SANDF "to make the farming community more safety conscious", says mr. Cassie Aucamp, MP and leader of the AEB.

He says "to be safety conscious is one side of the coin. To be safety competent is another. Given the massive scale of farm attacks, the safety burden cannot be placed financially on the farming community alone."

"As this is a matter of national and international interest, the Afrikaner

EenheidsBeweging urgently requests the government to implement a system of financial support for farmers to enable them to put safety measures in place."

Aucamp says "the safety and security of its citizens is the first and most important responsibility of any government. Many farmers are not in the financial position to spend thousands on security and still survive economically."

Different options can be considered. The AEB makes the following suggestions:

- * Tax deduction for money spent on safety and security measures by farmers;

- * Soft loans must be made available for this purpose;

- * Government subsidy on security expenses should be considered urgently;

- * Collective bargaining for lower prices should be implemented;

- * The amount of R3 billion is available from the dismantling of the SASRIA fund. The minister of Finance indicated

that this money will be used to pay foreign debts. Taking into account the present healthy situation regarding South Africa's foreign debts, a part of these funds can be used to subsidize safety measures on farms. The SASRIA Fund is at the end of the day primarily a safety and security fund that has become not necessary any more and is in fact "money from home".

- * The insurance industry should also be involved. The life insurance companies as well as the short term insurance companies will save millions if the incidence of farm attacks could be brought down. They have a direct interest in this matter and may be more than willing to help.

"If government is prepared to spend some R50 billion on arms while there is no threat to the integrity of South Africa, but refuses to spend some 4% of that amount for the safety of an endangered species of the population, serious questions could be asked about its priorities," Aucamp says.