

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT DURING THE MINORITY FORUM

25 NOVEMBER 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Chairperson,

Freedom Front Plus, a registered South African political party, is continually being given a platform to advance its political agenda of accusing my government of conducting a “Genocidal War” against the Afrikaner Community. The preposterous and odious accusations made by this organisation, a remnant of apartheid and that still believes in White Supremacy, will not deter the government in implementing its vision and programmes to promote unity, reconciliation, nation building and social cohesion.

We are appalled that guidance was not given to you not to give the floor to this organisation as it is well known that it advances the very ideology that the United Nations declared a crime against humanity.

Mr Chairperson,

Indeed, no country is immune to natural disasters and South Africa is under the grip of the worst drought in Africa in record and memory. The economy of the country has taken a sharp knock, with projected staple food price hikes likely to continue unabatedly for a while. The steep food prices could push most households to more serious vulnerability status. It is therefore business unusual as we try to cushion poverty-stricken households against the effects of drought and their snowballing effect on food inflation. South Africa has activated early warning systems to ensure that farmers, irrespective of their race, respond appropriately to natural hazards.

Government is committed to engaging and providing the necessary support to farmers during this difficult period and has allocated funds towards drought relief through the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), including through assistance

to affected farmers with animal feed and water reticulation for livestock.

Access to water remains a critical priority, not only now during the crippling drought but generally as an essential service for our people. Water is life and sanitation is dignity.

Fighting crime remains a priority of government. We are resolute to rid our communities of criminals and we will continue to work towards a safer South Africa where all citizens, irrespective of the race, gender and locality, are and feel safe. We reiterate our position that the Government of South Africa will not heed the call to racialize the contact crime of murder as this only serves as a means to block social cohesion, transformation or protect narrow group rights.

I thank you