



Tel: +27 (0)12 686 0500  
Fax: +27 (0)12 686 0682  
[www.landbank.co.za](http://www.landbank.co.za)

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## **DA Statement Misleading: Land Bank has never expressed support for any political party views on land reform**

**25 April 2018.** Further to the publishing of a news article on the Democratic Alliance (DA) website on Tuesday 24 April 2018 titled ***“Land Bank supports DA call to release land to black emerging farmers”***, Land Bank notes with exception, the misleading headline suggesting its endorsement and support of the DA’s position on land reform.

Land Bank has neither endorsed nor supported any party political views on the issue of land reform, and will not do so at any point. The Bank is, instead, focussed on fulfilling both its Constitutional and policy mandate of facilitating transformation in the agricultural sector by continuing to collaborate with government and other sector players towards real development impact.

The misleading headline was made following Land Bank’s presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on Tuesday 24 April 2018, at which the Bank was giving an update on its progress in regards to speeding up transformation and inclusive growth in the agricultural sector.

The statements made by the Land Bank delegation to the Committee were made in the context of an overall comprehensive support programme that is necessary to accelerate the commercialisation of emerging black farmers. This programme involves a package of interventions that should address the following elements:

- Meaningful access to land;
- Grant / Equity contributions;
- Access to affordable finance;
- Technical support and skills transfer;
- Access to markets; and
- Insurance

Land Bank upholds the view that a successful programme to commercialise emerging farmers and transform the agricultural sector requires a coordinated and collaborative effort from key stakeholders. The public sector, led by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform; the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and the Department of Water and Sanitation, amongst others, are expected to play a significant role together with the commercial agricultural sector in finding a more effective solution.

Land Bank has notified the DA of its concern about the DA's misleading headline in this regard.

The Bank will continue to work towards fast tracking transformation in the agricultural sector by creating opportunities for black people to meaningfully and sustainably participate in the sector.

**Ends**

**For Queries, Contact:**

Alleyne Smith

Tel: 012 686 0549

Email: [asmith1@landbank.co.za](mailto:asmith1@landbank.co.za)