



agriculture
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

To: All Media Houses

Attention: Editors and Senior Reporters

Date: 02 October 2017

Re: Statement of the Ministry regarding the Inaccurate Documentary by ANN7 Channel

The Office of the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Themba Mthembu, has noted with regret the lopsided documentary by ANN7 television station which was contrived to produce a particular erroneous narrative about the Department.

There are many distortions, inaccuracies and false claims in the documentary which was televised recently on this station.

As the Department we would have, without reservations, given the factual information if the reporters who were covering this story had followed the basic journalistic ethics that primarily include affording the other side the right of reply.

Consequently, the viewers of ANN7 have been force-fed the wrong information which we strongly believe is driven by shadow sources who harbour a sinister agenda against the Department, in particular its political head, the MEC.

As the Department, we acknowledge and respect the media's cardinal right to free speech, fair and unbiased reporting. However, we strongly believe that the deliberate lack of balance in the report of ANN7 amounts to unfair and biased reporting and smack of malicious reporting.

We are going to lodge a complaint as we strongly believe that there was a violation of media ethics by ANN7. Furthermore, we are going to write to the station's editorial management to register our position.

We are also seeking legal counsel in this regard.

Thank you

Issued by the KZN DARD Ministry

Khaye Nkwanyana
Ministry Spokesperson

Khayelihle.nkwanyana@kzndard.gov.za

082 464 8889