

Agbiz participates at ministerial meeting amid the disruptions in KZN

On July 15, Agbiz, along with other agriculture and food stakeholders, joined a meeting organized by Ms Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The objective of the meeting was to assess the availability of food in the country and the function of the food supply chains amid the unrests and riots in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng. The meeting was also attended by the Ministers of Health, Small Business, Presidency, Trade, and Industry and Competition, and Public Enterprise.

The significant issues that were agreed upon and currently receiving urgent attention are:

- Opening of national roads (N2 and N3 routes)
- Availability of Police and soldiers on hotspots areas within N2 and N3
- Protection of key areas such as warehouses and silos
- Opening of major harbours such as Port of Durban and Richards Bay
- Availability and access of food suppliers to retailers and spaza shops
- Movement of food essentials by air cargo

Agbiz will continue engaging with the government and various industry stakeholders on these matters.

As a way to monitor the progress in the aforementioned interventions that will be implemented, BFAP will resume the Tracker System, which was utilized at the start of the pandemic to monitor the disruptions in the food value chain. We urge members to cooperate with BFAP in this process as its crucial to ensure the functioning of the supply chains.

The government's official statement is available here:
https://twitter.com/DALRRDgov_ZA/status/1415715268802789381/photo/1

Statement from the office of the CEO.