



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### CHIEF DIRECTORATE: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Private Bag X833, Pretoria, 0001; 184 Jeff Masemola Street, Pretoria, 0001  
Tel: 012 - 312 8511; E-mail: [queries@drdlr.gov.za](mailto:queries@drdlr.gov.za); Website: [www.dalrrd.gov.za](http://www.dalrrd.gov.za)

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION 12<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

15 JUNE 2022

Agriculture remains a sticky point in the world trade negotiations once again. Minister Thoko Didiza believes that the resuscitation of the Agriculture Round of negotiation is critical. Most importantly it is and should be about disciplining domestic support that distorts trade which is what developing countries, including South Africa have been subjected to over the years.

Minister Didiza opines that the current draft text on Agriculture creates a basis for agreeing to a work program for the next Ministerial Conference.

“It is important that the revival of the agriculture negotiation must not undo or dilute the gains that had been made in the previous rounds of negotiations, especially relating to support for resource poor and rural farmers as in Article 6.2 of the current Agreement on Agriculture”, said Minister Didiza.

“It is important to ensure that the policy space for developing countries to develop agriculture in their countries is maintained”.

Minister Didiza says the sequencing on the negotiations remains important in order to ensure that we do not find ourselves starting all over as though we are beginning the negotiations.

There are currently topical areas such as Public Stock holding (PSH). This measure is currently used as a domestic food security measure. The current debate is for exploring a provision that will allow for PSH to be allowed for exports to assist in humanitarian interventions to address food insecurity. “If there is an agreement in this



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Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvu kiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko  
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba Nekutfutukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha  
nokuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Nagale Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae Lefapha la  
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae  
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle

area, it will allow for export of PSH stock to Least Developed Countries and Net Food Importing Developing Countries”.

“As South Africa we believe this matter must be negotiated and clarified on how such measures can be used within the WTO rules with safeguards”, said Minister Didiza.

“I understand the fears that PSH may bring as a result of domestic support given to farmers and therefore selling these stocks in open markets without safeguards may distort the market,” said Minister Didiza.

“The discussions on Agriculture are proceeding and South Africa will continue to advocate for a work program that will pave way for negotiation”, said Minister Didiza.

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Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

- Media Liaison Officer and Spokesperson: Mr Reggie Ngcobo, 0662980980 or [MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za).
- Eviction Toll-free Number: 0800 007 095

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