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Dear Mr Nqeto

Thank you for taking our meeting on 25 April 2023 and sending the minutes to control. Everything seems to be in order.

However, our members and other commercial farmers in the country are still unsatisfied with the HRC's decision to reject our claim against COSATU.

I want to reiterate that the SAHRC's purpose is **to protect, promote and monitor the implementation of human rights in South Africa**. The mandate to **investigate, monitor, and report on human rights issues in South Africa and ensure that the rights enshrined in the Constitution are respected, protected and fulfilled**, however, seems to only apply to some South Africans.

How can it be that the Appeals Court finds displaying the old South African flag in a private residence is a human rights violation as it incites and promotes hatred, but calling farmers abusers, rapists, and murderers is merely "hurtful"? Surely you must realise that COSATU uttering such comments in a national press statement and posting it on their website plants the seed of resentment and incites violence towards farmers. Our members find COSATU's statement one of the worst forms of hate speech.

Could you please explain how you distinguish between hurtful statements and human rights violations? We suggest you also run a marketing campaign to educate all South Africans on the difference and how to appropriately respond when words are hurtful and when it is a human rights violation because the people who attack farmers out of resentment created from inciting statements like these of COSATU, do not seem to know the difference.

Furthermore, for clarity, we want to establish if it would be hurtful to say COSATU members are arsonists and criminals because one of their members was possibly involved in burning pack stores in Kirkwood. Or would that constitute hate speech?

We have attached a link to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights [here](#) and would like to highlight the following:

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person

- COSATU incites violence towards a person simply because they belong to a specific group, farmers.

Article 7: All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

- Displaying the flag versus calling someone an abuser, rapist, and/or murderer on a national public platform.

Article 8: Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

- The HRC rejects TLU SA's claim, calling it merely hurtful.

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation.

- Calling farmers abusers, rapists, and murderers is an attack on the honour and reputation of farmers.

We urge you to reconsider our complaint, keeping the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in mind.

It seems that the HRC applies double standards, which will most certainly affect its credibility more and more.

Kind regards,

Bennie van Zyl