

## AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Statement 09 September 2021

## MINISTER DIDIZA VISITS THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED FARM WORKERS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Today, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza (MP), together with her deputy, Mcebisi Skwatsha, visited the families of farmworkers who died in a horrific accident in Villersdorp in the Western Cape.

The ministers went to offer their condolences to the Dlamini and Mbathane families, who both lost their fathers in the accident.

The officials from the provincial department, together with local counsellors, continue to offer assistance to the bereaved families and injured farmworkers.

"As a government, we continue to work on improving legislation in terms of transportation of farm workers. Although in this case the mode of transport was not an issue as it was a permitted one by law, we encourage all farm owners to improve on the way they transport their workers," said Minister Didiza.

"I wish to urge farmworkers and farm owners who have not yet taken their vaccines to do so. This will go a long way in assisting the country and the industry to go back to normality. Agriculture, as an essential service, will benefit a lot if all in the sector are fully vaccinated"

On Tuesday morning, a vehicle carrying 57 farm workers from Chilten farm in Villeirsdorp was involved in an accident in which two farmworkers lost their lives, while 3 occupants of another also lost their lives.

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

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