

Media Statement

27 DECEMBER 2021

MINISTER THOKO DIDIZA PAYS TRIBUTE TO ARCH BISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU

As the world bids farewell to Arch Bishop Tutu and remembers his role in South Africa's liberation struggle and his quest for a just world, we reflect on his concerns about food security and its role in ensuring a stable and prosperous society. One of his most recent works on this area was in July 2021, when the Desmond and Leah Tutu Foundation convened a dialogue titled "Ecological Apartheid: food for all". This dialogue drew several Agriculture and Land Reform experts locally and globally to share views on how South Africa can attain food security for all. At the heart of this dialogue was how agriculture can ensure that no one goes to bed hungry in South Africa.

This dialogue came when all countries were preparing for the United Nations World Food Systems Summit that took place in September 2021. In a way that may not always be obvious, Arch Bishop Tutu was close to the farming community. Many will remember how he stood in solidarity with farmers through prayers during the drought that affected the Western Cape province of South Africa in 2018. To Bishop Tutu, the meaning of freedom will need to touch those who are not privileged by ensuring that their livelihood change for the better. Hence, addressing poverty through agriculture development and the inclusion of previously disadvantaged communities is one of the efficient ways of improving livelihoods. As we continue

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