

**Media release**

**for immediate release**

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**NERPO WELCOMES 2019 SONA**

The National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation (NERPO) welcomes the State of the Nation Address (SONA) presented by the State President, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The State of the Nation Address was a well-balanced and comprehensive plan with clear direction. The President reflected very well on the progress made over the past year, especially efforts to stimulate growth of our economy. The President was not shy to accept publicly the mistakes the government and the ruling party have committed.

NERPO was even more impressed about the attention and value accorded to agriculture and rural development. Numerous commitments were made in terms of fast-tracking land reform, support and development of small-scale farmers, as well as general economic stimulation. For example, The President mentioned that the government will continue to prioritise targeted skills, development and capacity programmes for smallholder and emerging black farmers. He also explained the issue of land expropriation without compensation and this has ailed the fears and uncertainty that many had regarding this critical and sensitive policy issue. It is very encouraging to the emerging red meat producers that the government in the coming year will focus on red meat as a high value agriculture product with export potential.

"We are very hopeful that given a chance to lead the country for the next five years President Cyril Ramaphosa could achieve a lot and bring the country a positive outlook," said Mr. Aggrey Mahanjana, the Group Managing Director of NERPO.

The National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation is a livestock commodity organisation that represent the interests of more than three million black livestock farmers in South Africa.

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