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To whom it may concern

Kwanalu has a history which back dates to 1860, in 1997 a merger with the South Coast Indian Farmers and the National Farmers Union brought together all farmers under one umbrella group – Kwanalu. Kwanalu celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017, during the 20 year short span of the merger has served as the official mouthpiece for inclusive organized agriculture in the province. The organization focuses on addressing key matters of a general nature, amongst other; agricultural conditions, disaster management, infrastructure, land affairs, development of women and youth, education etc. Kwanalu has proudly taken the lead in KwaZulu-Natal in dealing with numerous issues and proactively participating and engaging in agricultural issues.

Kwanalu is a fully integrated non-racial, gender sensitive organization for commercial and small-scale farmers, and remains a key stakeholder and credible organization in KwaZulu-Natal dealing with relevant issues on behalf of its members. We have a strong commodity and business affiliation which contributes to our institutional success and capacity. This results in Kwanalu being recognized as one of the most integrated and representative farmer organizations with a collective membership in excess of 47000. The 35-member board, served by important commercial and small holder stakeholders, commodity and agribusiness affiliates, reflects our membership, with a number of women serving on the board.

Kwanalu as one of the nine provincial unions in South Africa is affiliated to Agri SA, in turn the members of Kwanalu are members of Agri SA.

Kwanalu's strategic focus is to provide leadership on all key agricultural issues of importance to commercial farmers (of all sizes) and related agricultural organisations in KwaZulu-Natal. Farmers' Associations are located throughout KwaZulu-Natal; they are empowered to engage at a municipal level.

One such initiative is the Upper Midlands Agricultural Transformation Initiative (uMati) who are endeavouring to ensure sustainable agriculture through co-ordinating community development. Part of the initiative is to develop black partnerships with additional water supply and broad based educational support. Some additional development work and opportunities include; School bursaries to Weston Agricultural High School, Assistance to tertiary education, IT School advancement, learnerships on student exchanges, Adult education and worker training, Large dam construction through Mpofana Irrigation Project, Water supply to poor rural communities, Irrigation supply to developing farmers, Broadening the employment base of commercial farmers through development and Farming partnerships with developing farmers and commercial farmers.

Kwanalu views these members driven initiatives such as uMati as truly important in changing the landscape of the South African rural economy. the commitment to rural development.

Yours sincerely

S La Marque
CEO