



The PHA Food & Farming Campaign and the Makaza Food Growers support Section 27s call for wider policy consultation on the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. Substantively, the document compares abysmally to the content of the Food System and Food Security Study for the City of Cape Town, by Battersby et al completed in July 2014. It is utterly deficient in its analysis, clarity and content, and in its current form will fail the citizens of South Africa, completely.

There has been no national consultation process on the content, Section 27 notes: “The failure by the State to hold any public consultation on the Policy and to rush the public consultation on the Implementation Plan runs contrary to its democratic and constitutional obligations and risks the passing of an inappropriate and ineffective policy framework.”

The right to food is a human right protecting the right for people to feed themselves in dignity, implying that sufficient food is available, that people have the means to access it, and that it adequately meets the individual's dietary needs. The right to food protects the right of all human beings to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

In the Cape Town context, food insecurity is not about the absence of food, but is about households not having the resources to access the right kind of food. The latest study of food insecurity in Cape Town found that 75 percent of households in sampled low income areas were food insecure, with 58 percent falling into the severely food insecure category. This level of food insecurity is worse than that of Malawi.

The PHA Food & Farming Campaign, representing four local organisations, is cognisant of the extensive threat to food security that our current urban food systems present and promote. It is for this reason that we are fighting to retain the 3000 hectare agricultural space in the city that produces 1,700 tonnes of vegetables a year. Potentially it could produce 6,000 tonnes annually, mitigating against fluctuating prices, and ensuring an affordable vegetable supply from the unemployed to the pensioner. The area is under threat from numerous development initiatives, that civics in the area have contributed hours of voluntary campaign work to defend.

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