Mediaverklaring: Vrystaat Landbou

Vrystaat Landbou
Free State Agriculture

Nobelstr 4 Nobel St
Brandwag
54, Bloemfontein 9300
(051) 444 4609
[F] (051) 444 4619

17 Augustus 2018

VL spreek grondkwessie by jaarkongres aan

’n Waterskeidingskongres. Waarskynlik die belangrikste in die geskiedenis van landbou in Suid-Afrika én die Vrystaat. Dis hoe Francois Wilken, President van Vrystaat Landbou (VL), sy organisasie se jaarkongres beskryf het.

Volgens Wilken is daar “nêrens in die wêreld landbouers wat moet boer onder die druk waarmee Suid-Afrikaanse landbouers te doen het nie”.

Meer as 250 gaste het die kongres, waar grondonteiening sonder vergoeding hoog op die agenda was, op 15 en 16 Augustus 2018 in Bloemfontein bygewoon. Die tema was *Terug na ons lede* en landbouers kon hul bekommernise met VL deel en debatteer.

Verskeie bekendes soos Dr John Purchase, Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte van Agbiz, Theo Venter, politieke ontleder verbonde aan die Noordwes-Universiteit se besigheidskool, Ivor Price, TV-aanbieder, Dan Kriek, President van Agri SA, en Andries Vermeulen, storieverteller, was teenwoordig.

Vertroue in VL-leiers

Wilken en Tommie Esterhuyse, wat die afgelope jaar as onderskeidelik VL se President en Vise-president waargeneem het, is ook vir ’n volgende termyn van twee jaar verkies.

“Ons gaan nie toelaat dat ons die etiket dra as die skuldiges van alles wat in hierdie land verkeerd gaan nie,” het Wilken gesê. Volgens hom het die regering in baie opsigte gefaal.

“As jy as politikus nie kan doen wat jou kiesers van jou vra nie, moenie die blaam verskuif nie. As jy stemme wil werf, kry dit op die regte beginsels en manier.” Hy meen landbouers sal aanhou hard werk om kos op die tafel te sit.

Volgens hom neem VL kennis van die lys plase, wat moontlik onteien kan word, wat gepubliseer is en sal hy sy lede bystaan. “Ons soek duidelik wat grondtonteiening sonder vergoeding presies beteken? Kom ons spekuleer nie in die media, om die braaivleisvure en op sosiale media nie. Kom ons kry antwoorde.”

Hy het ’n beroep op landbouers gedoen om veral in sulke omstandighede meer betrokke te wees. “As jy wil opstaan en ’n standpunt maak, moenie dit op ’n WhatsApp doen nie. Gaan na jou landbouvereniging toe en as jy só sterk oor ’n saak voel, laat my weet en ons sal dit

op die agenda sit. Dan hanteer ons jou punt konstruktief: Ons kom tot 'n besluit en voer hom uit."

Wilken meen met samewerking en verskeie insette kan die beste oplossings gevind word. "Die tyd is verby wat jy vir my sê jy het nie tyd (om insette te lewer) nie."

Betaal ledegeld hieroor

Volgens Venter was sy boodskap minder oor politiek en meer oor dink. Hy meen klem moet gelê word op hoekom 'n mens op 'n sekere manier oor goed dink.

"Wat van die politieke geraas is regtig waar? Wat is politieke lawaai en wat is waar? Dit is wat ons moet bepaal," het hy gesê.

Kriek het aangekondig dat Agri SA, saam met landbouers, uitgenooi is om met die ANC te vergader. "Agri SA sal die Grondwet beskerm. Maak nie saak wat nie," het hy gesê.

Volgens Kriek, self 'n Vrystaatse landbouer, betaal hy net ledegeld aan een organisasie. "Ek vertrou slegs een organisasie met die toekoms van my plaas, my grond, my eiendomsreg en my ander regte onder die grondwet én dit is Vrystaat Landbou."

<u>Foto:</u>

Francois Wilken en Vrystaat Landbou (VL) het tydens die organisasie se jaarkongres hard gepraat oor die grondkwessie. VL se lede het ook hul vertroue in Wilken gestel deur hom vir die volgende twee jaar as President te verkies. Foto: Conrad Bornman / Mediaboer

---

Vir medianavrae, kontak Francois Wilken, President van VL, by 083 390 1831 of Gerhard Kriel, Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte van VL, by 082 050 1444

Media Statement: Free State Agriculture

Vrystaat Landbou
Free State Agriculture

Nobelstr 4 Nobel St
Brandwag
54, Bloemfontein 9300
(051) 444 4609
[F] (051) 444 4619

17 August 2018

FSA addresses land issue at annual congress

A watershed congress. Probably the most important in the history of agriculture in South Africa and the Free State. That is how Francois Wilken, President of Free State Agriculture (FSA), described his organization's annual congress.

According to Wilken, "there is nowhere in the world where farmers have to farm under the same pressures as South African farmers".

More than 250 guests attended the congress, where land expropriation without compensation was high on the agenda, on 15 and 16 August 2018 in Bloemfontein. The theme was *Back to Our Members* and farmers had the opportunity to share and debate their concerns with FSA.

Various well known people such as Dr John Purchase, Chief Executive Officer of Agbiz, Theo Venter, Political Analyst at the Business School of the North-West University, Ivor Price, TV presenter, Dan Kriek, President of Agri SA, and Andries Vermeulen, storyteller, were some of the speakers.

Confidence in FSA leaders

Wilken and Tommie Esterhuyse, who was acting as FSA's President and Vice President the past year, were also elected for a further two-year term.

"We will not allow ourselves to be labelled as the guilty party for everything that went wrong in this country," Wilken said. According to him, the government failed in many ways.

"If you cannot do as a politician what your voters ask from you, do not shift the blame. If you want to recruit for votes, get it on the right principles and manner." He said farmers will continue to work hard to put food on the table.

According to him, FSA takes note of the list of farms, which has been published, that may be expropriated and will assist its members. "We want clarity on what exactly expropriation without compensation means? Let's not speculate in the media, around a braai and on social media. Let's get the real answers."

He called on farmers to be more involved, especially in such circumstances. “If you want to stand up and make a point, do not do it on a WhatsApp. Go to your agricultural association and if you feel strongly about a matter, let me know and we’ll put it on the agenda. Then we handle your point constructively: We make a decision and act on it.”

He feels cooperation and various inputs will result in the best solutions. “The time is over when you tell me you do not have time (to give inputs).”

Pay membership because of this

According to Venter, his message was less about politics and more about thinking. He believes it must be emphasized why one is thinking about things in a certain way.

“What about the political noise is really true? What is political noise and what’s true? That’s what we need to determine,” he said.

Kriek announced that Agri SA, together with farmers, were invited to meet with the ANC. “Agri SA will protect the Constitution. No matter what,” he said.

According to Kriek, who himself is a Free State farmer, he only pays membership fees to one organization. “I trust only one organization with the future of my farm, my land, my ownership and my other rights under the constitution and that is Free State Agriculture.”

Photo:

Francois Wilken and Free State Agriculture (FSA) spoke about the land issue at the organization’s annual congress. FSA members also expressed their confidence in Wilken by electing him as President for the next two years. Photo: Conrad Bornman / Mediaboer

---

For media inquiries, contact Francois Wilken, President of FSA, at 083 390 1831 or Gerhard Kriel, Chief Executive Officer of FSA, at 082 050 1444