

Honorary Life Chairmanship Agriculture Bussiness Chamber

Dankiesêtoesprake by AGBIZ konferensie 5 Junie 2012 Champagne Castle

Corwyn Botha

Thank you address

Well, what can I say? This is a high point in my world. The highest –indeed, my world, the world I know and cherish. To me the top echelon of agriculture, the agriculture in which I partook, that I lived and enjoyed. My road travelled through these conferences to here tonight. The road to this new logo here behind me as launched last night and then onward on the road/way forward to prosperity.

I know the ABC since my first conference in 1976, the then Co-operative board as it was named at the time. Looking around in this hall, I see no one that was in my first conference with me, unbelievable than I can be so much privileged to be able to stand here. There were 19 of these conferences over this period. I missed 5, one when I was away abroad and four others while I was in another industry. Yes, the AGBIZ was transformed over time to what is has now become. Maybe that was the road that I had to travel to here tonight. Travelled with so many, some that is not anymore also.

From Marcos' speech this morning about fact, impacts and acts, I want to share mine.

Fact, my father send me to agricultural school at the age of 13, now I am 63, maybe he started my road through agriculture, maybe he already then saw this event tonight.

Impact, my 63 is just a number, nothing more; *ek mag ouhoutwees, maar weesversekerek is nog nie brandhoutnie*.

Act, You and I are placed here on earth so that everybody around us, all our stakeholders, will do better because we are here, than what they would have if we were not placed here by Him, with all our gifts to apply in caring for His herd and make it grow. That of course, is also the core reason why every one of your businesses exists.

As Marcos said, continuously differentiate, act collectively and always make cost improvements.

The AGBIZ is an interface, a lighthouse as our chairman said yesterday, do not neglect it! It is all about connectivity. I dream of Agriculture Incorporated in movement. Not a structure!

We came through the era where we wanted to create structures, permanent structures. And yes, after we created them we had to waste so much energy to maintain them. That was all so much wrong, so much against nature. Against nature that continuously changes. That is why I now rather see a movement, a dynamic movement into the future! Agriculture on the move, on the way to prosperity.

I pray that we shall have that energy explosion within ourselves to everyday participate on this way forward to prosperity.

I salute you all and bid you Godspeed.

Ek dank die Hemelse Vader datek tot hierkongekom het. Dankieaan my gesin en Annelie en baiedankieaanjulle my kameradevirhierdie token watjulleaan my toegeken het, elkeenwatekkongeken het en steeds ken.

Wat 'n voorreg!!
Baiedankie

Corwyn Botha