

**RECORD OF THE KWANALU CONGRESS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2017  
AT THE ROYAL SHOW, PIETERMARITZBURG**

**20<sup>th</sup> Birthday (19<sup>th</sup> Congress)  
CONGRESS THEME  
“Trailblazers of Transformation”**



**1. Registration**

**2. Welcome**

The Chairman, Mr Andy Buchan, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the guests in attendance, including past presidents, Fred Visser, Walter Ntuli, Robin Barnsley, Brian Aitken and Michael Black, speakers Johannes Moller Agri SA President, and Max du Preez, Henk van Wyk, Chairman of the Agri SA Provincial Chamber, Andries Geysler, Chairman of the NAU Trust, Jannie de Villiers, CEO of Grain SA, Dr Thulasizwe Mkhabela, Acting CEO of the Agribusiness Development Agency KZN, 2017 Young Farmer finalists, representatives from Toyota SA Motors (sponsors of the Young Farmer Competition), students from Future Farmer Foundation, Cedara College of Agriculture, Owen Sithole Agricultural College and Weston Agricultural College, representatives from sponsors, members of the Press, Government officials, Kwanalu delegates and members.

Apologies had been recorded on the attendance register.

**3. Opening**

The Chairman requested Ralf Küsel to open proceedings. Mr Küsel told a short story about two friends who had built a bridge to help repair rifts, and opened Congress with a prayer. He encouraged members to build bridges.

**4. Motions**

The Chairman requested Congress to stand for a moment's silence in remembrance of those who had lost loved ones as well as those who had been victims of crime since the 2016 Congress.

**5. Constitution of Congress**

The CEO, Mrs Sandy La Marque, confirmed that the notice of Congress had been circulated and with the representative delegates present, a quorum had been met and Congress was properly constituted.

**6. President's Address**

The Chairman presented his President's Address to Congress. A copy of his address is attached to the file copy of this report.

He said that it was an honour and privilege to serve the members of Kwanalu and that the success of Kwanalu could be attributed to its principled approach to represent the collective interests of its members.

He said that the past year would be remembered for its many challenges and the uncertain environment surrounding the sector, attributed largely to an ailing economy, political tyranny and unpredictable weather patterns. The ravaging drought and senseless spate of atrocious farm attacks and murders will be etched on the minds of many affected persons.

Sadly, there was general agreement that South Africa's land reform programme had failed to achieve its objective and its beneficiaries had seen little or no improvements to their livelihoods. He said the objective of land reform was to produce self-sufficient farmers capable of contributing to food security of their families, communities and to the economy at large. Kwanalu recognises the need for land reform, but the acquisition of land without support to sustain a living is degenerative and doomed for failure.

Kwanalu will continue to challenge government on flawed policy proposal endeavouring to provide sound rationale in lobbying for the interest of its members. Current proposed legislation threatens property rights and land reform and if successful will hamper growth in the agricultural sector.

He said that various initiatives throughout the province to expedite transformation were evident that farmers understood the need for change and were willing to advance sustainable land reform.

He said the future in agriculture rested on strong, principled and selfless leadership.

Kwanalu was committed to the development of better communication with its members and creating enhanced public awareness of successful initiatives instituted by farmers. He encouraged members to utilise the existing communication platforms to remain informed on current developments.

He said that criminality in all forms undermines confidence in the agricultural sector.

He said the importance of agriculture to the economy was reflected in its contribution to the year's second quarter growth and the prospects for growth were abundant if we were willing to consent to change and seize the opportunities that present themselves.

He said that the resilience and ingenuity characterised by the members would enable communities to share in the rewards of success.

He thanked the Kwanalu Board, the Management Committee and members of Kwanalu for their support and allegiance to collectively pursue the objectives of Kwanalu, as well as to their families.

The Vice-President, Phineas Gumede, thanked the President for his address. He said that his address had highlighted many issues being experienced in agriculture in South Africa. He said that there was no strong nation without a farmer. He congratulated Kwanalu and its staff for their efforts. He proposed the adoption of the President's address.

**7. Annual Report 2016/2017**

The CEO addressed Congress and highlighted some of the issues dealt with during the past year. A copy of the presentation is attached to the file copy of this report.

**8. Financial Statements year ending 30 June 2017**

The President called on Mrs La Marque to present the financials. Delegates were in possession of the financials. She took the meeting through the financials. She said that the Board and Management Committee peruse the statements at each of their meetings as part of their fiduciary and governance responsibilities. She said Kwanalu was compliant and have the correct financial practices in place. She provided elucidation on the notes from the statements.

**9. Annual membership subscription & budget proposal**

The CEO presented the proposed Income and Expenditure for year ending 2017. She went on to the budget which reflected a loss of R157 132 reporting that during the Board review process and debate on the matter the view of the Board was that no additional income be raised and that it was possible to recoup the loss during the year. The view was that a member driven organisation should be funded wholly by member fees.

The CEO informed Congress that according to the Kwanalu Constitution, the Board of Governors had determined subscriptions for the 2018/2019 year. These would be:

- Main member (including Vat)
  - R2 688.50 if received by 30 September 2018 or R2 830.00 if received thereafter
- Medium members (including Vat)
  - R1 344.25 if received by 30 September 2018 or R1 415.00 if received thereafter
- Previously disadvantaged farmers (including Vat)
  - R386.00

The President asked if there were any questions, of which there were none.

**10. Acceptance**

Mr P-J Hassard congratulated Mrs La Marque and her team on an excellent set of books and thanked the CEO and staff who operated on a limited budget. He proposed the acceptance of the financials, the budget and the annual report.

The financials, budget and annual report were seconded and unanimously **ACCEPTED**.

**11. Constitutional Amendments**

The President said that from time to time changes needed to be made to the Constitution. He called on Mrs Lisa Robertson to present the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Mrs Robertson's motivation is attached to the file copy of the report.

The proposed amendments were:-

- Amend 6. AFFILIATION  
The Union may be affiliated to such ~~farmer~~ representative bodies as the board of governors may from time to time determine. - accept
- Amend 11.2 Holding of Congress  
11.2.1 The president, or officer acting as such, shall convene a congress **every two years** which shall be held at a centre to be decided by the board.
- Amend 11.2.2 The ~~annual~~ congress shall be convened within **four** months of the financial year-end of the Union and each affiliated body shall be given at least 90 days notice of the date and venue of the congress. The agenda for the congress shall be forwarded by the chief executive officer to each delegate and to each affiliated body at least 30 days prior to the commencement of congress. Notice shall be given in writing using electronic or ordinary mail and shall be deemed to be given on the date of posting.
- Amend 13.3.2 Two representatives, one from the large and one from the previously disadvantaged categories, from each of the district municipalities which shall be referred to by name. **The term of office shall be no longer than a period of 4 years.**
- Amend 13.4.8 The term of office of officers and board members shall take effect from the ~~conclusion of congress~~ **first board meeting held after the conclusion of the financial year end.**
- Amend 15.5 The board shall **present an annual report to** ~~submit a report to the congress following~~ summary of the activities of the Union during the previous **financial** term., ~~and shall be circulated to all affiliated bodies and to all delegates to congress.~~
- Delete 19.2 ~~Copies of these annual estimates and the relative recommendations shall be circulated to all affiliated bodies and to all delegate to congress.~~
- Amend 19.4 After the end of the Union's financial year, an account of income and expenditure occurring in that year, and a balance sheet as at the end of that year shall be prepared, audited, and **a summary included in the annual report** ~~circulated to all affiliations together with copies for the auditor's report and copies of the report of the board.~~ The balance sheet and report shall be signed on behalf of the board by the chief executive officer and president or otherwise as may be authorised by the board.
- Amend 27.4 Certificate of Merit  
The board may, ~~on the recommendation of a farmers' association~~ grant a certificate of merit to a ~~member of a farmers' association~~ **person** who has rendered meritorious service to organised agriculture ~~at local level.~~ - accept

Mrs Robertson proposed the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution.

Mr Robin Barnsley felt that Congress should be held every year rather than every 2 years. Rolf Konigkramer, Kranskop Farmers' Association queried the four-year term of office for board members and felt that it was limiting. Peter Stockil agreed and said that Kwanalu was going to run out of people prepared to do the work. He felt that four years was too short. Wolfgang Rommelspacher, New Hanover Agricultural Association, said the definition - previously disadvantaged persons should not be entrenched in the constitution and that an annual report was important. Lindiwe Madonsela from Mahlabathini DFA seconded the first speaker. She felt that Kwanalu needed to be more visible and the congress was a platform to showcase Kwanalu and its activities.

Following the discussion on the constitutional amendments the President asked the congress if the congress was in agreement to adopt clauses 6 and 27.4. This was **adopted**.

The President then asked congress to task the Board to revisit the other proposed clauses for consideration by the next congress, sighting the view that it would be beneficial to explore these further.

## 12. Presentation of Awards

Mr PJ Hassard presented the first award. This was presented to:-

- Mr Hendrik Botha

He informed Congress of Mr Botha's services to organised agriculture. He asked Mr Botha to accept a Meritorious service award.

Mr Botha thanked the President for the award. He said he had attended Kwanalu's inaugural Congress so this was a special time for him. He encouraged members to look forward and serve God. He thanked Kwanalu for the award.

The Chairman presented a Meritorious service award to:-

- Mr Mike Black.  
He informed Congress of Mr Black's services to organised agriculture and said he had huge respect for him. He thanked him for the many hours of sacrifice he had made on behalf of Kwanalu and awarded him a Meritorious award in acknowledgement and recognition of meritorious service to organised agriculture.

Mr Black said that it had been a great privilege to follow in the footsteps of the past Presidents and to work with the staff of Kwanalu and the President. He said that leadership was not all about giving but the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages. He said that you get to a chance shape your future and you make friendships that last for a lifetime. He appealed to members to get involved and make a difference. He thanked Kwanalu for the award.

- **#proudKZNfarmer Photo Competition**

Mrs Sandy La Marque informed Congress that a photo competition had been held over the past year for members to showcase what made them proud to be a KZN farmer. The competition was judged by seven judges, who had selected 5 finalists. She announced that Mr Tyson Zunckel had won the competition. The President presented him with a prize.

- **Young Farmer 2017**

Mrs Sandy La Marque explained the running of the competition. She said it was the 9<sup>th</sup> year that the competition had been held. She explained the criteria for competing in the competition. She thanked Toyota SA for sponsoring the competition. She introduced the finalists to Congress:-

- Lloyd Dent from Donnybrook, a dairy farmer and Ross Lowe from Richmond, a kiwi, cabbage and potato farmer.

Mr Graham Smith, a representative from Toyota SA, the anchor sponsor for the Young Farmer Competition addressed Congress. He thanked Kwanalu for the opportunity to take part in this competition and said that Toyota SA was proud to be involved. He said that Toyota SA has had a long-standing relationship with the farming community and thanked the farming community for their confidence in their brand. He said that agriculture was the custodian of natural resources. Toyota SA congratulated Ross Lowe and young farmers for their involvement in agriculture.

Mr Ross Lowe was awarded the Young Farmer 2017 title.

### 13. **Kwanalu Birthday Challenge**

The President called on Andy Mason to propose the initiative - 1 minute for each year = "20 minutes of transformation"

Proposal for a 20-minute campaign launch:-

In recognition of Kwanalu's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday year, we are launching an initiative entitled "**20 minutes of transformation**" which calls on all KZN farmers and their families to give back 20 minutes of their time on 24 April 2018 – the inception date/month of Kwanalu 20 years on.

This initiative, to be driven by each association, calls on farmers to donate their time and skills for a minute for each year of the Union's existence (i.e. 20 minutes) with a project in their local community during April 2018.

Examples of projects include preparing and planting a community vegetable garden; collecting/donating books for a local school library or donating and installing a JoJo tank – the idea being that each district identifies their local community's needs.

The Kwanalu office will be in touch with each association to follow up on their initiative and to ensure that these historic moments which make a difference are captured.

He promoted the initiative and challenged and encouraged his fellow farmer members to participate.

### 14. **Acknowledgment of Sponsors**

The CEO thanked the sponsors for their generous contributions and continued donations and their support of Congress.

**15. 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea**

Congress adjourned for tea.

**16. Mr Johannes Möller, Agri SA President**

**How do we position ourselves in a transforming South Africa today?**

The President introduced Mr Möller to Congress. Mr Möller congratulated Kwanalu on its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, the President and Mrs La Marque on her report back.

During his address Mr Moller unpacked current South African realities affecting the agricultural sector, amongst other:

- The current economic realities and the impact of these on producers and their products
- Trade and economic barriers
- A lack of coherent economic policy
- The difficulty to balance social cohesion with compliance
- Unemployment which is leading to criminality
- Pressures on sustainability, profitability and food security
- Threats, political misuse and abuse of natural resources such as
  - Land
  - Water
  - The complexity and competition between mining and agriculture
  - Urbanisation
  - Etc.
- Globalisation and international realities e.g. industrial revolution, protectionist moves etc.

He further explained that Agri SA was undertaking an organisational restructuring to modernise itself and become more relevant. Agri SA's core business would remain focused on policy and related matters and providing leadership in issues. A greater role was envisaged to drive successful facilitation in for e.g. natural disasters, transformation etc., and ensuring its operations to continue being more effective. These would be explored at the congress in October. He assured farmers that Agri SA will continue to lead on policy development and influencing the environment in which it operates. He wished farmers well and encouraged them to remain strong during tough times.

The President thanked Mr Möller for his address.

**17. Mr Max du Preez, veteran journalist, political commentator and newspaper columnist**

**How do we position ourselves in a transforming South Africa today?**

The President introduced Mr du Preez to Congress.

Award-winning journalist, anti-apartheid activist and political commentator, Max du Preez called farmers "the custodians of our soil and producers of our food" and spoke at length on the hugely topical issue of land reform. Mr du Preez said that land displacement in SA is a historic fact and an emotional issue driven by pride, arguing that it is not about agriculture in the first place. For that reason, he stressed that an aggressive approach to government about land reform will only "back fire" on the agricultural industry; encouraging instead more talking and more strategizing as a solution. He added that the modern definition of land ownership has shifted away from being a status symbol and is now about producing food and providing employment.

"Farming has become a business – there is no place for emotion or nostalgia anymore," Mr du Preez said.

He also gave an overview of current political trends, events and possible scenarios on the outcomes of the country over the next few months. He was confident that with the right changes the country could improve.

The President thanked Mr du Preez for his address.

**18. Panel discussion**

Mr Rolf Konigkramer, Kranskop Farmers' Association asked if all farms were taken away and farmers were given a lease, what collateral would the farmer have. He said it would be a disaster. If a reforming government came into power, do you think the radical things would be considered instead of ideological.

Mr du Preez replied and said that the lease idea should be in the back of farmers' minds as an option but that security of tenure was crucial. Government is talking about radical economic transformation but that there had to be growth as without economic growth nothing could be redistributed.

Mr Möller replied saying he felt that agriculture would have to become stronger and become more involved in all negotiations and lead the way through whatever means possible, in particular utilising litigation as a last resort. He spoke of the need to establish a "war chest" to enable Agri SA to act on behalf of farmers to ensure legal precedent was set on issues where policy was being used against the sector. He indicated a campaign was being launched and a request being made to each farmer to contribute R1 000 towards this "war chest".

A representative from Santam asked if there was a way to improve the livelihood of farm workers in the agricultural sector and how do we improve their lives.

Mr Möller said that it was possible to improve the livelihood of farm workers, amongst other the first way was to improve their productivity.

Mr Ralf Küsel, Paulpietersburg/Luneburg Farmers' Association said that Mr Möller had criticized government quite severely and mentioned the new chambers in Agri SA and asked if there should not be a chamber to negotiate with government.

Mr Moller said that whilst he criticised government, Agri SA preferred to negotiate but said that sometimes you had to litigate.

Various questions regarding potential political outcomes were discussed.

The session was concluded after no further questions or comments were made.

**19. Mr Batman Lungelo, Future farmer, now managing a farm in Zwartberg**

The President introduced Batman Lungelo to Congress.

Mr Lungelo thanked Kwanalu for supporting the Future Farmers Foundation and the role that individual farmers play in holding hands with developing future farmers. He said that the opportunities he had been given were lifechanging from growing up in a very rural and poor community to managing a large farming enterprise. He said that farmers had an opportunity to change people's lives. He told Congress how he had worked his way up and that this was through working together with farmers. He said there was a future in agriculture and thanked all the farmers who had helped him in his progress. He encouraged educating workers about the realities of farming and encouraged farmers to mentor and hold hands with workers and farmers taking agriculture forward.

**20. Mr Anthony Goble, National Young Farmer of the Year 2015**

The President introduced Anthony to Congress

Mr Goble asked, why were we in farming? He shared how he and his family have a deep passion and love for farming and said that the positives far outweigh the negatives. He also pointed out that farmers should stop watching the news. It was always negative and often not accurate and dominated your thoughts and dictates your views and how you farm. Agriculture is like rugby, it's a team sport and there is a spot for you, whatever your skills – there is a position for you in agriculture, every job, farming can cater for it.

In 2004 he came back from Rhodes and has more than tripled his income. He diversified to macadamias and bananas. He said looking over the fence was not the best policy. He surrounded himself with a successful team and good staff.

His message was to not worry about what you cannot control, but remember that God will not give you more than you can handle. Deal with matters calmly and patiently. He said he found opportunities such as leasing land and expanding. He was always looking for sustainable long term opportunities. Take the best of projects and lessons learnt to make things work. We need to look to partnerships where both parties bring value to the table and strike deals. He said that technology was not going to save us, but it was going to help us.

He said that farmers were very resilient and would find ways to deal with things in the future. He encouraged farmers to look for all the opportunities in every situation, be open minded, patient and act decisively and keep your hands on the controls always.

## 21. **President's conclusions**

The President thanked all the speakers for their addresses.

Mr Buchan thanked the delegates and observers for attending, the officials, guests, media and sponsors for their ongoing support and in particular the Kwanalu staff for their dedication and hard work.

He said the message he heard today was what organised agriculture was doing for him and fellow farmers. He reminded farmers that they are Kwanalu and through their involvement it makes Kwanalu strong and united. The strength of Kwanalu was a factor of the combined efforts of each individual. He encouraged farmers especially on the principle of sowing and reaping. The challenge is not what am I getting for my money but what am I doing to make my place a better place.

He concluded the congress by summarising Kwanalu's approach going forward, that: -

- Kwanalu will continue with an informed approach, conduct itself in a responsible, ethical and professional manner and not waiver on our mandate of a sector specific focus in agriculture.
- Kwanalu will continue to protect the rights of its members and will never negotiate the rights of members away.
- Kwanalu will follow an inclusive multi-pronged approach in engaging with all stakeholders in our sector in addressing concerns of its members,
- Kwanalu must be solution orientated and will with Agri SA and all affiliates and its members in its endeavours to acquire and implement sustainable solutions with integrity and without compromise.
- Kwanalu is committed to working with the farmer, alongside the farmer for the farmer in its pursuit for a better life for all.

He closed by saying that he had hope for agriculture, for farmers and for South Africa. God has a hand on this country and we must never lose hope.

He closed Congress with a prayer and said grace.

The President closed the meeting at 14:10.

### **Kwanalu**

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