

Speech: Rita Andreas, Chairman: Adama Workers Trust

Adama Appollo land reform launch

Good evening, I am Rita Andreas and I am the HR Manager at Bosman Boerdery, chairperson of the Adama Appollo workers trust and your host this evening.

It is a great honour and privilege to welcome all of you to this beautiful event. You are all very special and that is why I find it such a privilege to welcome you and to make you feel at home.

All of you that are present here tonight have contributed in some way to this big event in the lives of me and my colleagues. I would like to use this opportunity to give you a little background on what has led to empowerment and what it means to me and all of us.

Petrus will make specific acknowledgements.

I am going to talk about my own experiences, because if I talk about those of others, I might omit what is most important. I was born on Lelienfontein in 1965. I am one of the fourth generation of my family on this farm. For every Bosman on the farm, there was an Adam Appollis. Over the years there have been many popular families on the farm like the Apollis, Azer and Arnoldus families who are still here today.

I grew up with my grandparents. My grandmother's parents, in other words my great grandparents, also lived on the farm. As children we were very privileged to not just grow up on any farm but on this particular farm. Old Mr Jan and Mrs Anna Bosman were my role models. When I refer to him now as Oubaas it has nothing to do with politics or apartheid, but rather because of the respect I had for them. I remember the days when we had Sunday school under the trees every Sunday. In the evenings I went to help my grandmother with her evening chores.

Every evening I first had to listen to old Mrs Anna playing the piano. That is where my love of music started. She was the one who encouraged me to take music lessons. So there are many stories I can tell you.

So as you will gather, upliftment and empowerment started many years before democracy. There were quite a few of us who had the opportunity to study.

Because of the good Bosman grandfathers and grandmothers, the Lord has blessed us now with the good Bosmans we have today. In 2002 we started with the farm projects. The children and security guards received swimming lessons. We established our own karate club, ball room lessons for the adults, a women's club, youth gatherings and many more. In all of this we had the support of Jannie and later Petrus too.

Jannie Bosman and his son Petrus saw that our projects were successful and we have the certificates to prove it. Long before Government decided on BEE, Jannie Bosman knew that he would be empowering his people. He always said, "God will grant the right farm or land at the right time".

The contribution of Land Affairs...

Our farm committee has been in existence for 13 years now. Most farm owners do not believe in having a farm committee, because they fear that the farm workers will become too clever. But the Bosmans did not hesitate for a single minute to establish a farm committee. Today we can enjoy the fruits of a healthy, balanced business.

In March 2007 Jannie and his son Petrus had a meeting with the committee to share their dream with the committee. The idea was that they would like to sell shares in all the farms. The committee talked to all the farm workers and tested their feelings about the idea. I remember how one of the men exclaimed, 'guys, what more could you want than this? Let's go for it.' That is when the committee decided to proceed with the project. All the processes we had to go through have been completed and have brought us to where we are tonight.

Dreams many of us did not even dare to dream came true. I never thought that I could become a shareholder and even a director.

This partnership means a lot to us. There are many opportunities for all of us. We have so much to be grateful for. Our God has been and still is so good to us and therefore we cannot thank and praise him enough.

Our success will depend on every individual and what he/she decides to do with this opportunity.

We are looking forward to great challenges and opportunities and we will grab it with all our strength. Because we have competent people like the Bosmans on our side, we will be able to identify our shortcomings quickly and we know that they will help us.

I would like to thank Jannie, Twinkle, Petrus, Carla, Pieter Daniël, Jannie (Jnr) and Tonia for their willingness to take this leap forward with us. We believe that you have opened the eyes of not only the farmers of Wellington, but of the whole of South Africa. Be sure of our sincere appreciation.

I would like to express our deepest appreciation to each of you who made a contribution, no matter how big or small. Thank you for sharing this evening with us.

By now Petrus Bosman is well know to all of us, so he does not need an introduction, but I would like to give him the opportunity to tell us on behalf of the Bosmans what this partnership means to them.

Then Klaas Morkel, the chairperson of the worker's committee will say grace.

Enjoy the evening and please stay until you feel that you have had enough.

Thank you very much.