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## **Mediaverklaring / Media Release**

Privaatsak / Private Bag X180 Centurion 0046, Tel +27 (0)12 643 3400, Faks/ Fax +27 (0)12 663 3178

### **Boer van die jaar steeds positief na aanval FARMER OF THE YEAR STILL POSITIVE AFTER ATTACK**

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#### **Boer van die jaar steeds positief na aanval**

Die bekende wyn- en kaasmaker, Charles Back van die Fairview-landgoed in die Paarl is Dinsdagoggend terwyl hy geslaap het wreedaardig in sy huis tydens 'n huisroof aangeval. Hy was ook die 2017 Boer van die Jaar.

Na verneem word is Back in die vroeë oggendure deur drie mans aangeval nadat hulle die veiligheidsdeure oopgebreek het. Hulle het op die vlug geslaan met elektroniese items en is tans nog op vrye voet.

“Agri SA veroordeel die aanval ten sterkste en beskou dit as nog 'n aanval wat 'n negatiewe beeld van die land in die buiteland skep. Ons kan nie die tipe slegte publisiteit bekostig nie. Dit kan die toerismebedryf in die Wes-Kaap nadelig raak en toeriste na die gesogte deel van ons land afskrik”, sê Dan Kriek, president van Agri SA.

Volgens Rossouw Cillié, voorsitter van die Pro-Agri Groep, is Back in die veranderde tye in Suid-Afrika 'n ware leier en voorbeeld. Back is lank reeds betrokke by die skep van geleenthede vir sy mense, waardeur hy hulle die kans gee om hulleself te bemagtig.

Cillié sê verder dat, “hy geleer het van die beginsels wat Back met bemagtiging toepas en dat hy dieselfde vir sy mense probeer doen. Die positiewe ingesteldheid van Back is inspirerend en hy laat hom nie deur negatiewe dinge onder kry nie”.

“Dit wys weereens dat aanvallers niemand sal ontsien om hulle doel te bereik nie, nie eens iemand wat so baie vir sy werkers en die gemeenskap doen nie. Nieteenstaande sy traumatiese-ervaring is Back Woensdag nadat hy uit die hospitaal ontslaan is terug plaas toe. Hy is 'n voorbeeld vir ons almal, dat ons nie moet toelaat dat sulke gebeure ons onderkry nie”, sê Kriek.

Kriek doen 'n beroep op die polisie om alles moontlik te doen om die skuldiges aan te keer en voor die hof te daag. Hy wens Back 'n spoedige herstel toe.

Uitgereik deur Agri SA, Direkoraat: Korporatiewe Skakeling

**Navrae**

Mnr Dan Kriek, President Agri SA, 082 944 0566

Mnr Omri van Zyl, , Uitvoerende Direkteur Agri SA, 082 417 5724

**FARMER OF THE YEAR STILL POSITIVE AFTER ATTACK**

The well-known wine and cheese maker, Charles Back of Fairview estate in Paarl, was brutally attacked in his home on Tuesday morning while sleeping. He was also named Farmer of the Year for 2017.

According to information provided, Back was attacked in the early hours of the morning by three men after they had broken the security doors. They escaped with electronic items and are still at large.

“Agri SA condemns the attack in the strongest terms and regards it as another attack which creates a negative impression of the country abroad. We cannot afford this type of bad publicity as it could have a detrimental effect on the tourism industry in the Western Cape and discourage tourists from visiting this sought-after part of our country,” said Dan Kriek, president of Agri SA.

According to Rossouw Cillié, chair of the Pro-Agri Group, Back is a true leader and example during these changing times in South Africa. Back is already involved in creating opportunities for his people by giving them a chance to empower themselves.

Cillié said, “that he had learned from the principles that Back applies with empowerment and tries to do the same for his people. Back’s positive attitude is inspirational and he does not allow negative things to discourage him”.

“This proves once again that attackers will do everything they can to achieve their goal, even attacking someone who does so much for his workers and the community. Despite his traumatic experience, Back returned to his farm on Wednesday after being discharged from hospital. He serves as an example to all of us by showing us that we should not allow such incidents to get us down,” said Kriek.

Kriek called on the police to do everything possible to arrest and charge the perpetrators. He wished Back a speedy recovery.

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**Enquiries**

Mr Dan Kriek, President Agri SA, 082 944 0566

Mr Omri van Zyl, Executive Director Agri SA, 082 417 5724

