

## **Media Statement**

**Kimberley – 26 July 2021**

### **We celebrate the life of Frank Lawrence**

Today we honour the memory of Frank Lawrence, GWK vice-chairperson and well-known South African farmer, for a life lived well with tremendous positive impact on so many people's lives.

Frank, an experienced farmer, was injured on his farm near Jacobsdal while calibrating farming implements on Monday (19 July) when the incident occurred in which he was hit by moving equipment. He suffered internal and other injuries and passed away in hospital on Saturday (24 July) just after 21:00.

According to family members he was doing what he loved on the farm working with his people when the accident happened: "We are grateful that he is not in pain anymore, and we appreciate the care and support from so many people during the last few days. He lived for the people around him."

Llewellyn Brooks, GWK Group Managing Director, says it is difficult to explain how hard it is to share the news about Frank's passing: "But, in this sad time, let's celebrate the life and legacy of a man who led with his heart, and be grateful for the time we have known him. Frank not only played a major role in GWK as a business, but also made a difference for our people, the wider community, farmers from all over and the agricultural industry. We all knew Frank and loved the man he was."

Frank farmed extensively and, other than serving on the GWK board of directors since the inception of the company, his leadership extended to many other forums in the industry. Frank was chairperson of the GWK board from 2012 and served as vice-chairperson since 2020.

According to Hennie Coetzee, GWK chairperson, Frank was more than a colleague and friend, he was a soulmate. "His contribution to GWK, many different business sectors and the broader community was enormous. There is a saying that a soft wind will blow away our footprints the day we die and all that will remain is our remembrance. The remembrance of Frank is so much . . . it is extensive."

Following Covid-19 protocol, the family decided not to arrange a funeral gathering, but will invite family, friends and business partners to get together at a later stage to say goodbye to Frank.

**ENDS**

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### **ABOUT GWK**

GWK is a public, farmer-owned company, operating from its head office in Douglas in the Northern Cape, with offices also in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northwest, Free State, Limpopo, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. GWK is involved in grain products, specialist crops and livestock and auction services amongst others, providing farmers with the inputs they need, supporting them with the best solutions on the farm and ensuring the best channels to market for their products, locally and abroad. GWK's premium branded foods are manufactured with a plough-to-plate philosophy, linking consumers with farmers through sustainably manufactured products from the farm.

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