



**STEWARDSHIP is the CORE VALUE that SUSTAINS Family Businesses**  
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FAMILY BUSINESS TIPS

***Interesting facts:***

*"One-third of companies listed on the S&P 500 are family-owned businesses, and Forbes magazine estimates that family-owned businesses employ 60 % of the total workforce."*

**STEWARDSHIP**

The core value of the oldest family businesses in South Africa is STEWARDSHIP.

"A Family Business is a GIFT from previous generations and should be preserved for future generations," says Carl van der Merwe of the oldest family business in South Africa, BOPLAAS, founded in 1743.

"We were taught from generation to generation that this farm does not belong to this generation, we merely borrow it from our children."

Andrew Beale, Managing Director of Beales Hotels, quotes his great grandfather:

"We never really expected to see the colour of our money. A family business is something of a sacred trust. It is not to be exploited for the benefit of one generation."

**What does stewardship mean?**

To understand the meaning of stewardship it might be wise to understand the opposite of stewardship, namely ME, MYSELF & I.

Stewardship is about serving a cause that is larger than the individual. It is not about me! It is about the preservation of the family business for future generations.

That is why Carl van der Merwe says, "... the farm does not belong to this generation. We merely borrow it from our children."

To live stewardship one must RESPECT and VALUE what past generations have established and preserved for future generations.

In your generation you should preserve and grow the family business in the interest of the following generation.

There is a strong link between stewardship and servant leadership. Leaders in family businesses are there to serve and not to be served.

Stewards or servant leaders do not think short-term. They will do the right things today to ensure a better tomorrow.

They do not just plant flowers to enjoy the moment. They plant trees to create shadows for future generations.

Says Warren Buffet:

**"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."**

***FABASA offers access to professionals that can assist you to ensure sound compliance.***

