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Turbulent labour issues in citrus industry resolved

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Labour unrest in the citrus industry in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape have been resolved with workers having returned to work according to the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA).

Last week saw the two regions facing sporadic incidents of strike action which in some cases brought operations to a standstill, specifically in the Sundays River area.

CGA CEO Justin Chadwick said that the unrest had been caused by uncertainty and misinformation regarding wages as "certain organisations were actively undermining legitimate discussions aimed at resolving the situation amicably".

He pointed out that while the situation had been resolved, the long-term damage in terms of relationships and affordability would be felt for some time.

"Any standstill in an industry that works with a perishable product not only affects production on the farms but also negatively affects the entire value chain including farm workers, growers, packers, transporters and importers, all of whom are prevented from doing their jobs," said Chadwick.

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