

Association confirms unrest had little impact on citrus exports

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Citrus growers in Mpumalanga and Limpopo have been diverting their fruit to other ports across the country in the wake of delays and disruption at the Durban port, as well as

on routes in Gauteng, but the situation is normalising.

While the citrus value chain has been impacted to some extent, citrus from other regions continues to be exported as normal from the Cape Town and Coega ports.

There has been little impact on volumes of citrus being exported to markets including the European Union, Middle East, China and the US, the Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa (CGA) confirms.

To ensure the full recovery of the value chain in KwaZulu-Natal, the CGA has been engaging with stakeholders in the public and private sectors on a daily basis.

These meetings have resulted in fruitful situational analysis and identification of risks that hampered the full recovery of citrus operations.

The association welcomes the reopening of the Durban port and arterial routes in recent days, as well as that all citrus fruit cold storage facilities in the provinces are fully secured and operational.

While the Durban port is receiving reefer containers, shipping delays are expected owing to bottlenecks caused by a shutdown for most of last week.

The CGA calls on ports to operate on a 24-hour basis to catch up on backlogs and ensure the export season continues to run smoothly.

Additionally, the CGA has requested that the South African National Defence Force troops remain deployed on the N2 and N3 to allow for trucks to travel 24 hours a day, as well as at other key sites across the citrus value chain. 🇷🇷

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