

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (9/14)

Justin Chadwick 14 March 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *"Nobody believes the official spokesman.. but everybody trusts an unofficial source"*

Ron Nesen

RECOGNISING REEFER CONTAINERS

Mitchell Brooke organised a very productive meeting with Transnet and industry representatives on 5 March 2014. Thanks to Zeph Ndlovu for chairing the meeting and keeping it at an operational and goal orientated keel, to all the Transnet personnel who attended the meeting (a full house of all those who deal with our product), to PPECB and DAFF officials, and to the industry representatives who provided valuable insights (including Peter Newton who came up from Cape Town).

This was a follow up to a meeting that took place in November 2013; and it was pleasing to note that the majority of items on the activity log had been resolved or where in process. Without doubt the partnership between all citrus role-players at Durban port is making progress. I am sure 2014 will have its challenges – but I am also sure that this communication platform will alleviate many problems before they arise.

An important issue is the preferential treatment given to reefer containers – dedicated lanes have been developed and Transnet staff does give reefers priority. BUT.... they need to be able to identify which are reefer containers. Transnet sent out the following notice ***"With the Citrus season fast approaching, you are requested to ensure that Steri reefers that are brought to the terminal (P1 & P2) have got COT stickers in the front and at the back. This will assist us in identifying them easily and ensure that they are handled accordingly"***. Please contact PPECB or your shipping line for more information on this. COT stands for cold treatment.

Transnet has also tackled the wind delay issue – with additional reach stackers now being deployed should the need arise. Additional infrastructure has also been added in terms of reefer plug in points – pier 1 has increased from 888(2013) to 1188 (2014); pier 2 from 1267 to 1850; DRT from 110 to 128 and MWT from 316 to 369.

One issue that will remain a challenge is that many container depots do not work 24/7. As a result delays are experienced. CGA has initiated a study of the container depot environment in Durban so as to identify where the challenges are and to develop possible solutions. Although availability of inspectors has been problematic in the past – PPECB announced the employment of 44 new staff which should solve the problem. Container depots are reminded to ensure that all containers are clean and in the required condition. PPECB inspectors are rotated (in terms of the depots they inspect) and yet the same depots have problems (regardless of the inspector). This aspect will be picked up in the CGA study and communicated to industry. Rejection of containers is terribly disruptive and it is the depots responsibility to ensure that they are in order before presenting them for inspection.

Vis Loganathan, Head of Planning at Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) has been moved to a new role created within TPT, and that is to manage supply chain integration. His function will primarily be to assess industry needs and align this to the infrastructure and planning requirements of DCT, thereby integrating the downstream operations with those of DCT and vice versa. Vis will be presenting on behalf of TPT at the PPECB Durban Pre-season meeting to be held on **Monday 17th March** and at the Citrus Logistics Forum (CLF) meeting to be held in Stellenbosch on **Tuesday 25th March 2014**. One of the critical points that have been raised with DCT is the need to align TPT vessel stack dates at Pier 1, Pier 2, Maydon Wharf and Ro-Ro Point in a manner that permits the cold stores to achieve a continuous and even flow of container operations over the full spread of the week. This will also reduce the congestion at empty container depots, cold stores and at the container terminals.

CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF) MEETING

The CMF will be held on Tuesday **18th March** at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre. **If you are planning to attend please RSVP to Gloria on 031 7652514 or gloria@cga.co.za.**

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