

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (41/17)

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Justin Chadwick 27 October 2017



“The world needs to take notice of the ongoing farm attacks going on in South Africa. People are being murdered every day” Ernie Els (on Twitter)

STAND TOGETHER AGAINST FARM ATTACKS

I was extremely fortunate to have been born and raised on a farm – there can be no better way to spend your childhood days than experiencing the adventures of farm life. My father did not have it as easy. He was usually up before 4 a.m., and invariably only arrived home after 7 in the evening; tired out from a day full of decision-making and problem solving. Many nights his rest would be disturbed by a knock at the door – heralding a person needing to go to the doctor, or a problem with an animal or (most likely on a sugar cane farm) a fire on his estate or a neighboring farm. He would drag himself out of bed and set off to assist. The word “drag” is incorrect – for farmers are men and women of action; within a few minutes he would be dressed and racing off in his bakkie to address the problem. It does not matter if a fire was on his property or somebody else’s – he would be there, as would all the farmers in the community. Because that is what farmers are – they are a community; and all in the community are extended members of the family. Nowadays most night calls for farmers are due to some form of crime or violence perpetuated against their community – and each farmer who is attacked or murdered sends waves of grief throughout the community. Farmers, their family and the farm are one entity – there are few businesses where the family are so involved – the farm happens all around the family; these senseless attacks impact heavily on all members of the farming family. Over the past five days, 11 farm attacks took place in South Africa, which led to the death of four people. Since 1 January 2017 at least 341 farm attacks have already been carried out, during which 70 people have been murdered.

These are mere statistics, hiding the impact that these senseless acts have on families and communities. Farmers are the lifeblood of the nation; without farmers we would have no food, without farmers we would not exist. Think about it – if farmers were not ensuring that there is food available, each and every one of us urban dwellers would have to produce our own. Apart from the impracticality of doing this – it would also mean that we could focus less of our time on our jobs. The entire economy is built on the fact that farmers produce our food. We cannot allow these senseless attacks to continue.

On Monday 30 October, everybody is being urged to wear black, in a show of solidarity with our farmers. Wherever you are in the world, wear black to show that you care about South African farmers. In addition, post and tweet pictures and comments to show you care. We are calling on the government to address farm attacks in South Africa as a priority, to work with organised agriculture, commodity groups, farming communities and individual farmers in a bid to stop this atrocity.

LIMPOPO FARMER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Piet Engelbrecht of Piet Citrus (Die Piet Engelbrecht Trust) in Groblersdal on winning the prestigious farmer of the year award in the Limpopo province. Not only has Piet and his family built up a reputation for excellent quality citrus, but he has also played a leadership role in organized agriculture in the province. Congratulations on a well-deserved accolade.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To End Week 42 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB/AGRIHUB	2015	2016	2017	2016	2017	2017	2017	2016
Grapefruit	16.1 m	13.8 m	15.7 m	13.2 m	15.4 m	15.6 m	15.7 m	13.8 m
Soft Citrus	10 m	12.2 m	13.4 m	11.3 m	13 m	13.2 m	13.4 m	12.2 m
Lemons	15 m	15 m	19 m	14.6 m	18.8 m	17.5 m	19 m	15 m
Navels	24.5 m	26.2 m	21.1 m	25.5 m	21.1 m	26.3 m	21.1 m	26.2 m
Valencia	52.5 m	41.6 m	53.7 m	39.8 m	50.4 m	50.1 m	53.7 m	41.8 m
Total	118.1 m	108.8 m	122.7 m	104.2 m	118.4 m	122.7 m	122.9 m	109 m

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