

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (23/18)

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“The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand” Frank Herbert

CGA MEDIA RELEASE REGARDING WORK STOPPAGES

The Citrus Growers Association and the industry we represent will continue to support farm workers in raising legitimate labour concerns and – equally - protect everyone in the industry from opportunistic political posturing.

This past week has seen sporadic incidents of labour unrest in the citrus industry in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo regions. In the Sundays River area, operations were brought to a standstill as uncertainty and misinformation regarding wages created uncertainty and an opportunity for political parties and other organisations to foster discontent.

Misinformation being spread by certain organisations is actively undermining legitimate discussions aimed at resolving the situation amicably. Non-government and political organisations claiming to represent worker interests, for instance, are wilfully ignoring the additional services that many farm owners provide to their employees, including housing, schooling for their children, daily crèches and healthcare.

Where there is any alleged mistreatment of farm workers we are calling on those affected to not only report these incidents to the authorities but to also inform the Citrus Growers' Association.

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.

Fortunately, the latest information is that the unrest has been resolved and workers will return to work today or tomorrow. While we are all relieved that this is over, the long-term damage in terms of relationships and affordability will be felt for some time.

While the Citrus Growers Association does not engage in employer/employee negotiations or disputes, we will always work tirelessly to protect the 80 000 jobs and the industries contribution towards the South African economy.

EXPROPRIATION WITHOUT COMPENSATION (EWC) REVIEW COMMITTEE HEARINGS

During June, July and August the Parliamentary Review Committee will be conducting hearings with regard to EWC. Growers are urged to ensure that they have regional representation at these hearings. The dates and venues are as follows: **Limpopo** – 27/6 Groblersdal; 28/6 Potgietersrus; 29/6 Giyani; 30/6 Thohoyando.

Northern Cape – 26/6 Springbok; 28/6 Upington; 29/6 Kuruman; 30/6 Kimberley. **Mpumalanga** – 2/7 Mbombela; 3/7 Emkhondo (Piet Retief); 4/7 Middelburg. **Free State** – 2/7 Botshabelo; 3/7 Welkom; 4/7 Phuthaditjhaba. **North West** – 17/7 Taung; 18/7 Mmabatho; 19/7 Rustenburg. **KZN** – 18/7 Vryheid; 19/7 Jozini; 20/7 Thekwini; 21/7 Kokstad. **Gauteng** – 26/7 Randfontein; 27/7 Vereeniging; 28/7 Tshwane.

Eastern Cape – 23/7 Umtata; 25/7 Queenstown; 26/7 Kingwilliamstown; 28/7 Jansenville. **Western Cape** – 1/8 Oudsthoorn; 2/8 Beaufort West; 2/8 Clanwilliam; 3/8 Swellendam; 4/8 Cape Town.

PACKED AND SHIPPED

Variety Focus Groups have met and adjusted the predicted crop for 2018. The hail damage experienced in Mpumalanga is still to be fully assessed – however, a reduction for that region has been included. The predicted volume is now closely tracking the total estimated volume.

To Week 22 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed
SOURCE: PPECB	2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	2018	2017
Grapefruit	7.6 m	10.1 m	9.8 m	6.5 m	5.9 m	16.8 m	16.4 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	6 m	5.4 m	5.5 m	4 m	4.1 m	14.7 m	16.2 m	13.4 m
Lemons	7.8 m	9.5 m	9.5 m	7.4 m	8.2 m	20.6 m	20.3 m	19 m
Navels	8.8 m	6.3 m	6.2 m	3.5 m	2.7 m	25.7 m	25.3 m	21.1 m
Valencia	0.7 m	1 m	0.3 m	-	-	53.9 m	53.2 m	53.8 m
Total	30.9 m	32.3 m	31.3 m	21.4 m	20.9 m	131.7 m	131.4 m	123 m

CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS

