

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (26/18)

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Justin Chadwick 29 June 2018



“Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution.” Albert Einstein

PUBLIC HEARINGS: AMENDMENT TO SECTION 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Media reports indicate that the Parliamentary Review Committee on the Amendment to Section 25 of the Constitution (dealing with expropriation without compensation (EWC)) had received over 700 000 written submissions by the closing date of 15 June 2018. While the one response to this news would be that it is fantastic to see so many concerned and engaged South Africans – true democracy and the will of the people being heard; the other response would be – “heck, how is the Committee going to be able to read, extract information and write up a report before end August 2018”. Assuming it will take the month of August to write up and finalise the report – the Committee has 32 days to go through all the submissions. This equates to almost 22 000 per day! In the media reports, it is stated that the Committee has tasked a third party to screen all the submissions; here lies a danger that the screeners may not really be qualified or impartial enough to properly extract the intent of the submitters. All in all a huge task.

While in the USA last week, I was privileged to visit the Constitution Centre in Philadelphia – just across from the building where the US Constitution was created in 1787. The tour started with an actor giving a 20-minute fast track performance on the development of the Constitution. What stuck in my mind (because it is repeated so often) is “We the people...” – the first three words of the US Constitution. The US Constitution was written with the citizens of the US in mind. I am sure that the authors of the South African Constitution had the same goal in mind. In many circles, the South African Constitution is held up as the magna carta of Constitutions. The South African Constitution of 1996 also starts with the words “We the people”.

The Constitution of a country is the glue that binds all who live in it together. Amendments to the Constitution should not be done lightly. That does not mean that amendments should not be considered – for example, the abolishment of the right to have slaves was a good amendment to the US Constitution – but they should be only considered if absolutely necessary. The US Constitution has been amended 27 times in 231 years (the first 10 amendments are contained in the Bill of Rights that restrict the powers of government). The 22-year-old South African Constitution has already had seventeen amendments.

The review Committee is now busy with Hearings. Looking at snippets from hearings that have taken place so far it seems that most have been held in a cordial manner, with all South Africans sitting together listening to the views of other delegates. This is the important part – no matter what an individual's views on this issue are – it is important that all views are expressed, and all attending the hearings must listen to all these views, and not be restricted by their own views. This process has the opportunity to be nation building or to be divisive. If it is conducted in a responsible manner and if all taking part do so in a spirit of hearing all views and finding a solution to complex issues – it will result in a better South Africa. If divisive elements, emotional rhetoric and political point scoring take centre stage – the opportunity will be lost. Time for strong leadership.

MID YEAR CITRUS MARKETING FORUM (CMF) MEETING

FPEF and CGA members have called for a mid-year CMF. Concern regarding increase in production, reported lower consumption and changing market conditions not only place industry on alert, but also require input from all stakeholders to ensure a successful 2018 citrus season, steering clear of risk in the phytosanitary, legislative and market environment. **Date:** 04 July 2018 **Time:** 09h00 **Venue:** ARC Infruitec - Stellenbosch

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 25 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	11 m	12.7 m	14.5 m	10.8 m	9.9 m	16.8 m	17.8 m	15.7 m
Soft Citrus	7.4 m	7.4 m	8.3 m	6.6 m	6.3 m	14.7 m	16.4 m	13.4 m
Lemons	10 m	13 m	12 m	10.4 m	10.9 m	20.6 m	20.3 m	19 m
Navels	15.9 m	12.7 m	14.3 m	9.2 m	9.2 m	25.7 m	25.6 m	21.1 m
Valencia	4.2 m	5.3 m	2.3 m	1.8 m	0.5 m	53.9 m	53.1 m	53.8 m
Total	48.5 m	51.1 m	51.3 m	38.8 m	36.8 m	131.7 m	133.2 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