

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (14/19)

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Justin Chadwick 5 April 2019

“in a peculiar set of circumstances the UK may see the end of May before they see the end of April” Anon

BREXIT

Anybody care to explain Brexit to us mere mortals from the Colony's? Thought not. One definition of Brexit is “Saying you are going to leave the party, but staying”. So with four possible outcomes many commentators are trying to determine the consequences of these possibilities. With a “hard Brexit” becoming more and more likely, those exporters supplying citrus to the UK will be happy to hear that under such a scenario all citrus tariffs will reduce to zero. Citrus fruit exported from South Africa would thus enter the UK at 0% duty throughout the year.

CITRUS LEGENDS

At the first CGA Citrus Summit (2015) it was decided to recognize those who had made significant contributions to this great industry – and the first three citrus legends (Peter Nicholson, Hoppie Nel and Jock Danckwerts) were announced. A legend is defined as “an extremely famous or notorious person, especially in a particular field” – in the case of the Citrus Legends they are recognised for their contribution to the establishment and success of the CGA itself, for their contribution to the prosperity and sustainability of the grower sector; and finally, for their contribution to the sustainability and profitability of the entire southern African citrus industry. The first three legends were then asked to select the three legends announced at the CGA Citrus Summit in 2017 – Freek Dreyer, Edward Vorster and the late Hennie Le Roux. Freek, Edward and Mariana Le Roux selected the 2019 Citrus Legends.

DAVID LOTTER – CITRUS LEGEND

The leadership positions that this legend has held will be hard to beat. These include Chairman of the South African Co-operative Citrus Exchange (SACCE), Chairman of Outspan International, Chairman of Fresh Fruit International (formed to coordinate the joint support services venture of Outspan and Unifruco on overseas markets) and Director of PPECB.

But this legend did not only operate in the boardroom. At the tender age of 32 he was appointed General Manager of Letaba Estates near Tzaneen. From 1967 to 1974 he was Executive Estate Director of Zebedelia and Letaba estates – farming on the biggest citrus estate in the southern hemisphere. In this role this legend realized the importance of research and technical input in the industry – tackling the CBS problems in those early years. Having an MSc in Agricultural Engineering, he had extensive knowledge of underground water and built up experience in the irrigation of tree crops. Under his watch the estates that he managed became leaders in the production of citrus, mangos and bananas.

This Legend received the State Presidents Order for Meritorious Service for outstanding merit in the public interest, and the University of Pretoria's Chancellor's medal for his outstanding contribution to agriculture, the economy in general and the South African fruit industries.

This Legend believed that agriculture must play an important role in uplifting the developing economies of under-privileged rural areas. He was on the Board of the Gazankulu Development Corporation and through his position as Chairman assisted in developing Lisbon Estates into a major fruit producing operation.

He is a loving father and grandfather - this Citrus Legend is David Lotter.

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