

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (02/25)

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Justin Chadwick 10 January 2025 (Compiled by Mitchell Brooke)



“Leaders win through logistics. Vision, sure. Strategy, yes. But when you go to war you need to have both toilet paper and bullets at the right place at the right time. In other words, you win through superior logistics” Tom Peters.

MITCHELL BROOKE - THE NEED FOR A REPORT ON THE STATE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS EXPORT LOGISTICS AND SHIPPING 2024

2024 Was an interesting season on many fronts, including the logistics and shipping space. It was also a year where much dialogue and thought-provoking initiatives were set in motion. One of the insights I gained, while being in the CGA logistics portfolio for 15 years, was the realisation that I should draft a Report on the State of Southern African citrus export logistics and shipping 2024. A comprehensive look back is always fruitful, especially at the start of a year.

Not only was 2024 an enlightening and interesting year, it was a year that will set the scene for many seasons to come – logistically speaking. Logistics has to some extent not only taken centre stage nationally, but it has definitely taken centre stage within the broader industry.

Personally, I’m very optimistic for what lies ahead. We have a Minister of Transport who has taken the lead on personally engaging to understand the pain points, constraints and, most importantly, the opportunities. We have very progressive and forward-thinking people in the citrus export logistics space. We have a committed and dedicated team at Transnet and a COO who is highly enthusiastic about our renewed approach to integrating and collaborating across the Transnet operating divisions. There is an extensive procurement drive for much needed equipment across container terminals, set to yield positive results on productivity levels. The recently published Rail Network Statement will pave the way for the first private rail operators to run trains on the South African rail network – something I personally will celebrate as a significant milestone in South Africa’s logistics history. It is unfortunate that the private public participation at the Durban Container Terminal Pier 2 is delayed, but come what may, more partnerships in this vein is urgently needed.

We are witnessing exceptional collaboration in the fruit export fraternity, creating competition in the shipping space, never seen before apart from the Summer Citrus collaboration. Keeping an industry-wide perspective will surely pave the way for enhanced and effective shipping services.

The 2025 citrus season will bring an interesting mix of events in the logistics and shipping space. We have presented to Transnet a Reefer Export Optimization Project. The project aims to centrally coordinate with Transnet the reefer export planning and operational process. The biggest pain point I see is just getting containers to terminal stacks in a decent timeframe. This project aims to assist.

The Report on the State of Southern African Citrus Export Logistics and Shipping 2024 will highlight all of this and more. The report is nearing completion and will be available soon. Hopefully it can help towards making 2025 a year of action on the logistics front. Improved logistics is essential for economic growth in South Africa.

CGA CITRUS SUMMIT 2025

There are only 60 days left before we kick off the 2025 CGA Citrus Summit. To register or find out more about the Summit or pre-summit tour, visit this link: [CGA SUMMIT](#).

For sponsorship opportunities still available, contact

tanya@cga.co.za. We are

looking forward to seeing you there!



The Boardwalk Hotel, Summerstrand, Gqeberha

11-13 March 2025

CGA Citrus Summit

TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST, TOUGH PEOPLE DO

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