



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PHILIPPINES SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPORT OF CITRUS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE PHILIPPINES

04 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza (MP), is excited to announce the successful conclusion of an Agreement between South Africa and the Republic of the Philippines for the export of South African citrus fruit to the Philippines.

The conclusion of the agreement follows intensive exchange of technical information between the two countries. This exchange has been ongoing since 2009, and aims to ensure that no citrus fruit, which might pose a risk in terms of pest and diseases, is exported to The Philippines. This is a common trade principle and not unique to citrus fruit exports. The agreement thus covers actions to be undertaken and measures to be adhered to by the primary producers, pack houses, storage facilities and certification bodies.

Based on orchards which have already been planted, the South African citrus industry estimates that close to 500 000 tonnes of additional citrus (lemons, mandarins and valencias) would be available for export by 2024 and thus access to new markets is particularly important. The Philippines' market presents an export potential of 20 000 tonnes of citrus and exports earnings close to R205 million. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has already presented its request to the relevant authorities in The Philippines, for test consignments to be exported under this agreement in the current citrus season. We await their response.

The South African citrus industry remains an important subsector in agriculture and the department appreciates the ongoing efforts of all concerned parties to ensure promotion, retention and optimisation of South Africa's export markets for fresh fruit. Both industry and the department will soon communicate to all relevant role players the detailed prescripts of the exports agreement reached with The Philippines towards ensuring full compliance.

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