



KEEPING IT FRESH



News from the FPEF – 03 December 2025

Dear FPEF Members,



Prof Piet Croucamp - Photo taken by Marletta

Thank you to everyone who attended our **AGM and celebrated Anton's farewell event** with us. It was nice to see familiar faces and to meet so many of our members. **Prof Piet Croucamp** delivered an informative keynote speech in his typical no-holds barred fashion. The day ended with a celebration of **Anton's** achievements over the **14 years of his tenure as CEO** and it was fitting that both **Minister John Steenhuisen** and **Minister Ivan Meyer** paid tribute to him in front of his family.

Anton has made a huge impact on the industry and has remained a humble, hardworking servant to it. Mark Jensen summed it up fittingly as **"a time well spent"**, which hinted at his going away gift from the FPEF. It is encouraging that Anton will remain active in the industry as was confirmed by both ministers and we look forward in him sharing his wealth of experience in the industry.

The main resolutions passed during the AGM dealt with our **Annual Financial Statements** and the **budget** for the new year, which were **both approved unanimously**. Our strategic focus remains on providing you, our members, with world class service along the following strategic focus areas:

1. Gaining new and improving existing **market access**;
2. Organising and attending **trade shows and promotions**;
3. Providing **information** and **intelligence**;
4. **Representing** your interests with government, associations and other stakeholders; and
5. Driving **transformation** through innovative programmes and training.



- Market Access
- Government Engagement
- Export process assistance
- Provide Information
- Transformation
- Research, Development and Innovation

We are grateful for the directors that served the organisation so well under **Mark Jensen's** leadership and welcome the newly elected board consisting of past and new directors. Congratulations to **Charl du Bois**, our new Chairman, and **Cecilia Landman**, the Vice-Chairperson, that were elected by the board. I personally look forward to working with both of you to help shape the future of our organisation.

The Board of Directors elected for 2026 are as follows:

- **Charl Du Bois** (Chairman)
- **Awie de Jager**
- **Stiaan Engelbrecht**
- **Mark Jensen**
- **Snyman Kritzinger**
- **Karabelo Motsei-Mngomezulu**
- **Roelf Pieenaar**
- **Craig Schaefer**
- **Cecilia Landman** (Vice-Chairperson)
- **Chris Engelbrecht**
- **John Gray**
- **Cyril Julius**
- **Rosené Matthee**
- **Hannes Nieuwoudt**
- **Chiliboy Ralepelle**
- **Neil van Rooyen**



Photo Credits: All farewell photos taken by Lauren Pistor Photography FLTR: Craig Schaefer, Awie de Jager, Chiliboy Ralepelle, Rosené Matthee, Charl du Bois, Piet de Jager, Chris Engelbrecht, Mark Jensen, Neil van Rooyen Front: Cecilia Landman, Karabelo Motsei-Mngomezulu

During the past week we had to escalate the **continued failures** experienced in the **Cape Town Terminals**, notably CTCT, to the **Transnet Group CEO** and relevant ministries on behalf of ourselves, **SATI and Hortgro**. Despite numerous undertakings and commitments by management, there are still operational failures that are placing a huge burden on the deciduous season which has only just started.

Please have a look at the **notifications sent out** and the **regular logistics updates** on various forums to keep yourself informed. We will do our best to keep pressure on the ports and communicate the situation to you so that you are able to make informed commercial decisions.

Until next time,

Piet

FINANCIAL MATTERS - MARINDA ROUX



Membership fee invoices were sent out on the 1st of December. Please compare the invoiced figures to your declaration and contact marinda@fpef.co.za if any discrepancies are found. **Membership fees are payable on or before 31 Jan 2026.** Thank you to all the members who have already made payment.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS - MARLETTA KELLERMAN

Fruit Logistica Berlin 2026

The **Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic)** is hosting a national pavilion at **Fruit Logistica Berlin 2026 from 4 to 6 February 2026.**



To obtain a **discounted 3-day visitor ticket** rate for Fruit Logistica Berlin 2026, redeem the voucher code: FL26_AV_SW_3672 in the regular FRUIT LOGISTICA ticket shop (<https://www.fruitlogistica.com/en/trade-visitors/tickets/>). Please enter the voucher code and then click REDEEM (not BUY) to get the reduced ticket price.

Or use the direct link: https://tickets.fruitlogistica.de/redeem?voucher=FL26_AV_SW_3672

TRANSFORMATION – JOHANNES BRAND

FPEF Annual Transformation Survey



We recently sent our **annual transformation survey** to the primary contact person of each FPEF member company. Thank you to those who have already completed the brief survey! For those who have not, kindly do so as soon as possible as it is vital for the FPEF to understand the transformation status of its members to **track transformation progress, keep the government updated and secure dtic funding** for FPEF activities such as trade fares.

Standards and Requirements regarding control of the Export of Fruit, excluding Citrus and certain Deciduous Fruit

The Department of Agriculture has published updated export standards and requirements for fruit excluding citrus and certain deciduous varieties, as outlined in the latest amendment (Notice No. 6874 of 28 November 2025). The regulations establish general and fruit-specific quality, safety, packing, marking, and inspection criteria across four classes: **Extra Class, Class 1, Class 2, and “For Processing Purposes Only.”** Key requirements include compliance with permissible cultivars, adherence to quality and food safety standards, proper container marking with details such as fruit kind, class, origin, and producer code, and meeting specific tolerances for defects, size, and ripeness. The standards cover a range of fruits including **cactus pears, papayas, blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries, blueberries, pomegranates, persimmons, figs, and other unspecified fruits**, with detailed inspection methods and permissible deviation tables provided for each type. The amended standards and requirements will come into force and become operational seven days after the publication of this notice (effective from approximately 5 December 2025). The standards are also available for download from the department's website, from this afternoon.

LOGISTICS – ANTOINETTE VAN HEERDEN

Deciduous season - Cape Town Terminals

Over the past three weeks, the fruit industry has faced severe operational disruptions at the Cape Town Terminals. These disruptions were driven primarily by **abnormal wind conditions, totalling 414 hours**, and were further compounded by systems failures that resulted in an additional 22 hours of lost time. The cumulative impact culminated in a major short-shipment on the *MV One Resilience*, where approximately **350 reefer containers were left behind**, representing an estimated industry loss of around **R224 million**. Given the seriousness of the situation and the proximity to peak season, the industry groupings (**FPEF, HORTGRO and SATI**) escalated their concerns directly to the Transnet Group CEO, **Adv. Michelle Phillips**. The letter highlighted the operational challenges, the lack of effective contingency measures and the need for urgent intervention. Industry offered assistance in various forms and remain open to all ideas.

Pier 2 Public Sector Participation

Private Sector Participation (PSP) at Pier 2 is progressing with the establishment of a new entity jointly owned by **Transnet and ICTSI**, with Transnet retaining majority control through **50% plus one share**. Labour agreements have been finalised, ensuring existing employees remain under Transnet and are seconded to the new company. ICTSI will appoint the CEO and CFO to drive operational improvements, while tariffs will remain unchanged until current contracts expire. During a six-month soft transition, pricing will be jointly managed, positioning the PSP as a collaborative effort to enhance efficiency rather than a divestment.

Ports Regulator

On the 1st of August 2025 the **National Ports Authority (NPA)** submitted its annual Tariff Application to the Ports Regulator of South Africa (PRSA) requesting an allowable revenue of R16 730m for the 2026/27 financial period resulting in an average tariff increase of **9.61% for the next 3 financial years** starting on the 1st of April 2026.

The Regulator, after reviewing the application and conducting public consultation sessions, applied the **Tariff Methodology and Tariff Strategy** to the Application and determined that an appropriate Revenue Requirement for the Authority to be R17 420m (inclusive of ETIMC of R800m), which translates to an overall **weighted average tariff increase** for the Financial Year (FY) 2026/27 of **7.57%**.

- Marine services and related tariffs (Sections 1-8 of the Tariff Book, excluding Section 7 that deals with cargo dues) are to increase by 9.60%.
- Cargo dues categories are to increase by the following percentage:
 - 7.80% increase on Containers Imports, Exports, Empties, Transshipments, and Coastwise
 - 8.10% increase on Break Bulk Imports & Exports

MY FINAL MESSAGE AS CEO OF THE FPEF – ANTON KRUGER

“In our industry, we are very much aware of seasons, and my season at the FPEF now comes to an end when I officially retire at the end of the year.

It was a really rewarding and enjoyable 14-year season, even with all its challenges, as I mentioned in my farewell message at the AGM on 20 November.

The surprises at the AGM regarding some attendees,

also reconfirmed that this is in essence a people industry where relationships are key to success.



*The FPEF team proved that they can operate very well secretly and “under the radar” as they arranged that various people who are close to me, both in personal and professional capacity, attended the AGM when I delivered my farewell speech. Those people included my **wife, our children, my 91-year old mother-in-law** (all the way from Klerksdorp in the North West province), **Ministers John Steenhuisen and Ivan Meyer** with the heads of their offices, the **FPEF’s Legal and HR consultants, mediators, colleagues from other industry associations (Agbiz, Fruit SA, IFPA, BFAP) and Government departments.***



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The team also obtained messages from people who could not attend in person, including those living and working abroad such as Ambassadors and Embassy staff, SHAFFE/SFA. The representative in Russia, **Mikhail Fateev**, who I first met in 2007 when I was CEO of the SA Ostrich Business Chamber during an event in Moscow, even composed a special piece of music as part of his greeting.



The FPEF Board gave me a very special retirement gift with a befitting message about time. It is an exceptional wristwatch which I will wear with pride as I enter the next season in my life.

All of these were humbling moments, but also filled me with gratitude for the blessings during the past 14 years. It was a huge privilege to have been part of the FPEF and its people.



I use this opportunity to again thank everyone who made this “bitter-sweet” day so special.

I do hope that I will still be able to be involved part time in this wonderful industry in the future.

I also wish to congratulate my successor, **Piet de Jager**, on having prepared and presented the budget for the next year, which was unanimously approved at the AGM. I know that the FPEF will be in good hands under his leadership and wish him all of the best.

A thank you to the **2025 FPEF Board** for support and guidance with **Mark Jensen** as Chairperson (for the past three years) and **Charl du Bois** as Vice-Chairperson. Congratulations to the Board with **Charl** as Chairperson and **Cecilia Landman** as Vice-Chairperson.”

Until we meet again,

Anton



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