

# The PPECB welcomes new board members

The Perishables Products Export Control Board (PPECB), South Africa's official export certification agency for the perishable produce industry, is proud to announce the appointment of its new board members for the three year period effective 1 December 2016.

**E**stablished in 1926, the PPECB has delivered valuable services to the perishable products industry for over 90 years by enhancing the credibility of the South African export certificate and supporting the export competitiveness of South Africa's perishable product industries. As a national public entity the PPECB is constituted and mandated by the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (Daff) to perform cold chain services along with inspection and food safety services.

The PPECB board is structured in accordance with the Perishable Products Export Control Act (PPECB Act), No 9 of 1983. In line with this the board is appointed by, and accountable to, the minister of the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (Daff) and comprises of non-executive directors, representing industries in which the PPECB operates.

The board welcomes six new members namely Khaya Kato, Arthur Shipalana, Clive Garrett, Anton Kruger, Martli Slabber and Mooketsa Ramasodi, who joined Angelo Petersen, Dr Mono Mashaba, Jill Atwood-Palm and Eurica Scholtz, who were reappointed for an additional tenure. Furthermore, Angelo Petersen was redesignated as the chairperson of the board while Dr Mono Mashaba was redesignated as vice chairperson. In addition, to discharge

its duties more effectively, the PPECB board has approved and delegated authority on specific matters to various committees, namely the audit, human resources and special projects committees.

"The new members bring a wealth of varied skills and diverse experience, which include executive and stakeholder management, marketing, finance, agriculture, food safety and biosecurity. Their proven business leadership, as well as their extensive industry experience, will serve the PPECB and the industry well," said Petersen. "Furthermore, the previous board provided a sound platform for the new board to build from which I believe has laid the foundations for a promising and successful tenure."

## THE CURRENT PPECB BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE:

**Angelo Petersen** (chairperson) was elected as a member of the PPECB board in September 2013. He represents the vegetable, grain and oilseed industry and is currently the executive general manager: corporate services at global fruit marketing and logistics player, the Capespan Group. He serves on the boards of various Capespan subsidiaries and also sits on the Human Resources Committee of the PPECB board.

**Dr Mono Mashaba** (vice chairperson) was elected as a member of the PPECB board in September 2013 and currently sits

on the Audit Committee of the board. He represents the pome and stone fruit industries and is currently the managing director of Africa Excel Advisory Services, a consulting company advising South African fruit industry associations to broaden their international market access. He also serves as a director for Hortgro, Fresh Produce Exporters Forum and Onderstepoort Biological Products.

**Jill Atwood-Palm** was elected as a member of the board in September 2013, representing the deciduous fruit industry. She is currently the general manager of the SA fruit and Vegetable Cannery's Association and serves as chairperson of the special projects committee of the board.

**Eurica Scholtz** was elected as a member of the board in September 2013 representing the table grape industry. She is currently chairperson of the Bergriver Table Grape Producer Association and serves as chairperson of the human resources committee of the board.

**Khaya Kato** represents the citrus industry and has managed a family citrus farm since 2004 and is also the chairman of the Entabeni board of directors. He is a member of the Citrus Marketing Forum and a member of the Citrus Growers Development Chamber. He also sits on the Special Projects Committee of the board.

**Arthur Shipalana** represents the fishing industry and has had involvement in numerous businesses, including the current three fishing entities Basani Marine, Visko Sea Products and ZWM Fishing. In addition, he is a shareholder and director of Cape Pine Investment Holdings, which owns MTO Forestry. He also sits on the human resources committee of the board.

**Clive Garrett** is the chairperson of the audit committee of the board. He represents the subtropical fruit industry and currently holds the position of marketing manager at ZZ2 and is a director of the South African Avocado Growers Association, also serving on their market development committee.

**Anton Kruger** represents the pome and stone fruit industries and has extensive experience in stakeholder management as well as executive management in various industries. Since 2012 he has held the position of CEO of the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum. He also sits on the human resources committee of the board.



The PPECB board members in front from left to right: Arthur Shipalana, Jill Atwood-Palm, Khaya Kato, Martli Slabber, Eurica Scholtz. At the back from left to right are Dr Mono Mashaba, Mooketsa Ramasodi, Clive Garrett, Anton Kruger, Angelo Petersen.

Name of organisation/ programme	Intervention	Cost	Province
<b>CASP &amp; Ilima/ Letsema DAFF</b>	Reprioritised to provide for immediate responses to the agricultural sector. Resources were made available for the distribution of animal feed and other interventions.	R226 935 000	All nine provinces
<b>Social relief measures Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grants. Dept of social development</b>	Provision of food parcels/ nutritious meals through the establishment of Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs).	R45 832 800	Free State KwaZulu-Natal Limpopo Mpumalanga North West
<b>Household Food Production Support DAFF &amp; dept of water and sanitation</b>	Provision of support packages which included drilling of boreholes and equipping them to provide water for irrigation and livestock. Packages also included small stock and indigenous chickens, grain silo, garden equipment, and vegi-packs	R130 424 680	North West Free State KwaZulu-Natal Mpumalanga Limpopo
<b>Enhancing access to drought tolerant seeds DAFF, ARC &amp; SA National Seed Producers Organisation</b>	Distribution of drought tolerant maize seeds to farmers and farming communities. The development of other drought tolerant crops	R37 000 000	
<b>Land Bank</b>	Concessionary Disaster Relief Fund	R400 000 000	
	Forced Stock Sale Deposit	R375 000 000	
<b>Water sector responses dept of water and sanitation</b>	Rainwater harvesting programme as part of the food security strategy	R18 000 000 (2015/16)	KwaZulu-Natal Free State
	Implementation of restrictions on all national dams under the control of water catchment management agencies	R10 500 000	North West Limpopo Eastern Cape Western Cape

While government interventions in the drought crisis were widely acknowledged, particularly by those who benefited from them, there is also a general sense that government was not well prepared to promptly respond to the crisis. It is known that South Africa is prone to short, cyclical droughts at regular intervals.

Since 1980 the country has experienced four droughts which varied in severity, but all had an adverse impact on the agricultural sector.

Unlike the previous droughts which occurred once in five to ten years, the recent drought was to a certain extent a one-off occurrence, considered to be the worst in 35 years. It begs a very important

question as to whether or not South Africa can cope with prolonged droughts. Does the country have an effective strategy in place to effectively deal with and minimise the impact of any kind of drought the country might face in the future and does the the Agricultural Drought Management Plan (ADMP) cater for this?

The problem with this government plan is that it was developed just to cater for the recent drought; raising questions around its sustainability due to its political linkage and its effectiveness in terms accommodating the farming community at large, as well as its impact on the social side of things. Section 27 of the Constitution seeks to contribute towards socio-economic needs,

especially ensuring sufficient food and water for everyone in the Republic of South Africa. Taking this into account, it is clear that the ADMP is a very specific disaster management strategy, which focuses on helping a certain group of farmers and is silent on dealing with the socio-economic ills mentioned in the preceding section. South Africa must ask itself what it has learnt from the recent drought and what should be done to ensure that the negative impact experienced will be minimised should drought strike again. It cannot be left solely to government to answer these questions. Collaborative planning between government and the private sector is crucial in this regard. ☺

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**Martli Slabber** represents the citrus industry and is currently managing director of Hexrivier Citrus. Furthermore, she was the founding chairperson of the Soft Citrus Focus Group and serves on the audit committee of the board.

**Mooketsa Ramasodi** was elected as the ministerial representative. He currently

holds the position of deputy director-general: Agricultural Production, Health and Food Safety at the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and has over 19 years' experience in government biosecurity regulatory services. He sits on the audit committee of the board.

"The PPECB's strength has always been encapsulated in the diversity of its

people and I believe the composition of the new board members exemplify this. Their extensive and diverse experience will ensure that the PPECB remains abreast of developments across all sectors, which it serves and that decisions are made collaboratively and for the betterment of the industry as a whole," said Lucien Jansen, chief executive officer of the PPECB. ☺