

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (7/20)

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Justin Chadwick 28 February 2020



"We must consult our means rather than our wishes" George Washington

AGRI'S GOT TALENT (AGT)

During 2019 CGA was invited to be a sponsor of AGT. AGT is an initiative of HORTGRO, SATI, Western Cape Department of Agriculture and VINPRO and has grown from strength to strength. As a result of the sponsorship citrus workers were invited to send in audio clips of their singing in 2019. In our first year on stage citrus won the day, with Nonkhululeko Sambo walking away with the top prize.

AGT is now on the look out for entrants for the 2020 event. Entries open on 2 March 2020. Let us see if we can make it two citrus winners in a row. Entrance is very simple; Whats App a sound clip of no longer than 3 minutes to 082 372 1557 or e-mail agrisgottalent@gmail.com – include name and surname, date of birth, own cell number, name of farm/cellar/packhouse, job description, how long you have been working on farm/cellar/packhouse and nearest town. Finalists will have a week's training in singing skills, life skills and stage training in Paarl; and sing at a gala dinner. For more information visit www.agrisgottalent.com or www.facebook.com/agrisgottalent or contact candice@citrusacademy.org.za

THE BUDGET SPEECH

On Tuesday I attended the ABSA Budget Speech workshop – with a powerful panel (John Purchase, Tommie van Zyl, Langa Simela, Chris Yelland, Nimrod Zalk and Tobias Doyer analyzing the Ministers presentation. The following observations:

- Before the budget speech panelists emphasized the need to build trust and confidence in South Africa.
- Agriculture featured fairly extensively in the budget presentation; with a particular highlight for the export intensive fruit industry being the allocation to DALRRD for export enhancement of agricultural commodities. This was coupled with biosecurity – another imperative for the fruit industries.
- There was no mention of assistance for Transnet – only mention of SAA and Eskom (we can all agree that the fixing of the energy sector is fundamental for South Africa's future). It may be that Transnet believe they can effect the necessary investments through their balance sheet.
- Not sure about this obsession with smart cities (and bullet trains). These type of pie in the sky ideas are perfect places for state looters to carry on their work, and don't add to sorely needed economic growth.
- The idea of a state bank is also extremely worrying – everything the state runs has been a disaster, and the South African banking sector is a leader in the world.
- The rationale for a sovereign wealth fund was to "put away funds during the good times – for use in the bad times". Well, guess what – we are in the bad times, so not the right time. It is mooted that the money will come from various non-tax government revenues – surely that would be better spent reducing the states burgeoning debt.
- Good news was the large amount to be spent on the law enforcement and legal bodies of government in order to put some of the looters of state coffers behind bars. This will be the most positive sign to ordinary South Africans that government is serious about rooting out corruption.
- The jury is out as to whether government has done enough to keep the rating agency from downgrading South Africa – and the proof will be in the pudding as to government's ability to implement the plan.

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