

Sowetan BUSINESS

EU to vote on dropping SA citrus ban

BRUSSELS – The European Commission has proposed dropping a ban on South African citrus imports but said it could be re-imposed if shipments contain a fungal disease,

according to a document obtained by Reuters.

EU member states will vote on whether to extend that ban today, a measure that would block about 600 000t of citrus

fruit for the May-to-October season. The commission recommends only considering a ban if the black spot disease is found in five different shipments from South Africa. – Reuters

Consumer credit health improves

Mpho Sibanyoni
Business Reporter

CREDIT bureau TransUnion's new report shows that consumer credit health is improving.

Dubbed the Consumer Credit Index and released yesterday, it shows that consumer credit health was progressively improved and got better in the first quarter of this year.

The index ranges between one and 100. When the index is above 50, it indicates improving credit health, while below 50 signals deterioration.

Credit health refers to consumers' ability to service existing credit obligations within the constraints of monthly household budgets.

Despite the 49.4 performance being better than the 48.9 experienced in the fourth quarter of 2013, this marked the ninth straight quarter the index hovered below 50 points.

The index paints a picture of an improving economic environment because in the first quarter of last year it stood at 45.1.

"Two years of deteriorating credit health has placed South Africa's consumer credit market under considerable strain, causing lenders to become more judicious in their lending practices," said the report.

Furthermore, TransUnion's payment profile database revealed that the number of consumer accounts that were three months in arrears

NEW INDEX PAINTS A PICTURE OF ABILITY TO SERVICE DEBTS

dropped by 1.8% in the first quarter of 2014.

"While there are still millions of consumers between three to nine months in arrears, or already written off, under judgment or in debt counselling, the current trend is welcomed after the surge in new defaults in 2012 and 2013," said TransUnion chief executive Geoff Miller.

Miller said there was a rising use of credit cards to supplement household budgets, showing that the good news seen in the credit defaults

data is not fully supported by household borrowing behaviour.

"Budgets clearly remain under considerable pressure and are vulnerable to higher consumer inflation and worsening employment conditions," he said.

Miller told Sowetan there were improvements in aggressive measures by banks to tighten credit policies and fewer consumers were being given access to credit.

Miller added that if Reserve Bank governor Gill Marcus raised the interest rates next month, more consumers would be dealt a blow.

"There are still millions of

consumers who are in arrears and a subsequent hike could impact on consumers negatively."

Miller said he did not think a rates hike would happen in the next monetary policy committee meeting.

"We think there would not be an immediate hike, but given where the rand is, there could be a moderate rate

hike in July of between 50 and 100 basis points.

"Consumers remain moderately stressed, and raising interest rates next month could further

exacerbate the problem," predicted Miller.

■ sibanyonim@sowetan.co.za



IMPROVED:
Geoff Miller

NEED A LOAN?

Choose to pay **this month** or **next!**

Apply now! Visit your nearest branch or dial *130*49494#

Full terms and conditions available on www.africanbank.co.za. African Bank is an authorised financial services and registered credit provider. NCR Reg No: NCRCP5, Reg No: 1975/002526/06.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: NOTIFICATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED RUSTENBURG STRENGTHENING PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ±2 KM 400KV LOOP IN LOOP OUT POWERLINE AND 400/132KV MARANG B SUBSTATION WITHIN RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OF BOJANALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Notice is given in terms of the EIA Regulations published in Government Notice R543 Chapter 6, Section 54 of intent by ESKOM Holdings SOC (Ltd) to strengthen the Rustenburg network by constructing and operating the following infrastructure:

- i. A new 3x 500MVA 400/132kV Main Transmission Substation (MTS), Marang B on approximately ±30 hectares;
- ii. ±2km 400kV loop-in-loop-out power line from the existing Bighorn-Marang/Medupi-Marang 400 kV power lines.

LOCATION

The proposed project will be in close proximity to the existing 400/88kV Marang Main Transmission substation on Farm Klipgat 281 JQ and Portion 2 of the Farm Elandsheuvel 282 JQ, located approximately 14 km North East of Rustenburg.

EIA PROCESS

The development is listed in terms of Government Notice R545 and Government Notice R546, Listing Notice 2 and 3 under Chapter 5 of the National Environment Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), and therefore requires a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken. The project will trigger listed activities No. 8 and 15 of Government Notice R545 and activity 4c (ie) of Government R546 which state that:

- GN R.545 Activity 8: The construction of infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex;
- GN R545 Activity 15: Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land or residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more; and
- GN R546 Activity 4c i (ee): The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5metres in North West in critical biodiversity areas (Terrestrial Type 1 and 2 and Aquatic Type 1) as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans

An application to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment Process has been lodged with the Department of Environmental Affairs and was assigned DEA Reference No: 14/12/16/3/3/2/611.

A Draft Scoping Report has been prepared by DIGES and is now available for public review from the 30th of April 2014 to the 16th June 2014. The report will be available at the following locations:

1. DIGES, Suite 2, 546, 16th Road, Midrand. Contact Person: Brenda Makanza;
2. Reception Desk at Rustenburg Local Municipal Offices, Cnr Nelson Mandela and Beyers Naude Street, Rustenburg;
3. Boitekong Community Library in Boitekong Township. Contact Person: The Librarian;
4. Reception Desk at Tsholofelo College in Boitekong Township, North West;
5. Reception Desk at Mfidikwe Primary School in Mfidikwe Village, North West;
6. Reception Desk at Thlage Primary School in Thekwana Village, North West Province;
7. Reception Desk at Photsaneng Primary School in Photsaneng Village, North West Province.

You are invited to submit your written comments/objections to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner mentioned below:

Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ms. Brenda Makanza
Dynamic Integrated Geo-Environmental Services (DIGES)
Tel: 011 312 2878
Fax: 011 312 7824
E-mail: brendam@diges.co.za

This advert is prepared on behalf of Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

Amcu strike: Miners say no to new offer

WHAT has become one of the longest strikes in the history of South Africa is not close to being resolved.

The Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) said yesterday its members had rejected the latest wage offer from the world's top three platinum producers, signaling its intention to continue the 14-week stoppage.

Amcu is demanding a basic salary of R12 500 a month while Lonmin, Impala Platinum and Anglo Platinum are offering an increase ranging between 7.5% and 10% over five years.

"The members have rejected the offer from the employer," Amcu president Joseph Mathunjwa told reporters after addressing a rally of about 5 000 workers near Lonmin's Marikana mine. Amcu held similar rallies in recent days at Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum.

Mathunjwa's comment came as the country commemorates May Day tomorrow to pay homage to workers' rights.

Lonmin spokeswoman Sue Vey told Sowetan the company would continue "taking the offer directly to our employees". – Reuters, Sowetan Reporter

DOUBLE AUCTION - DOUBLE AUCTION - DOUBLE AUCTION

CITY WHEELS ! CITY WHEELS ! CITY WHEELS !

- 2 X AUCTIONS

1ST AUCTION : THURSDAY 1 MAY 2014 @ 12H00 NOON (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

2ND AUCTION : SATURDAY 3 MAY 2014 @ 12H00 NOON

WHERE : 644 JOHAN HEYNS DRIVE (PREVIOUSLY HF VERWOERD), GEZINA, PRETORIA, 0084

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: More than 100 Cars and Bakkies (many in showroom condition) will be sold to the highest bidder. Massive Bargains will be bought by the public as vehicles are expected to be sold well below book value!

DON'T MISS THESE AUCTIONS!! MASSIVE BARGAINS CAN BE EXPECTED!!!

Terms & Conditions:

- All vehicles in running condition and are driven through on Auction
- Highest bidder is the buyer - No Reserves
- Vat is Payable - R1000.00 Admin fee per lot payable
- R3000 Deposit payable - Refundable to non buyers after auction
- NO Buyers Commission
- Viewing from Wednesday 30 April 2014 (24 hours viewing)
- All purchases to be paid and removed by Monday 5 May 2014 @ 17h00
- Finance Available Through **ABSA / Wesbank / MFC**

Contact Michelle: 012 335 1783 / Choppie 082 475 6907 / Andre 082 305 2702 / Frans 076 973 7899

CONTACT : AUCTIONEER WOUTER VOSLOO
083 324 6193 FOR ANY ENQUIRIES

ENQUIRIES: 012 335 1783 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.citywheels.co.za

DOUBLE AUCTION - DOUBLE AUCTION - DOUBLE AUCTION