

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Reducing food is one of the greatest opportunities of our time, says Consumer Goods Council's Zinhle Tyikwe
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Transnet crisis is "absolutely untenable" - Association of South African Chambers' Melanie Veness
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Business Times

Retailers scramble for poultry as avian flu hits

Industry body calls for lifting of import tariffs as severe outbreaks threaten local supplies of chicken and eggs

By KHULEKANI MAGUBANE

● A looming shortage of chicken and fresh eggs amid a severe outbreak of avian flu has retailers and fast food brands scrambling for supply as the lucrative festive season approaches, while poultry producers are sharing hatchlings and filling supply gaps by using farms in unaffected provinces.

Izaak Breitenbach, general manager of the Broiler Organisation of the South African Poultry Association, said this week the association believed importers would react to the outbreak by importing more chicken.

"Brazil, the US and at least two European countries are in a position to export chicken to South Africa. There is thus no need to recall the anti-dumping duties. Imports are flowing in from Brazil over and above the anti-dumping duties," said Breitenbach.

The avian flu outbreaks, which have been described as the most severe in the country yet, have seen the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal dealing with the HPAI H5 strain of the virus, while Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and North West have reported cases of HPAI H7. In response, Namibia has banned chicken imports from South Africa.

Breitenbach said companies could normally increase production by about 10%, and usually did so in the period leading up to the festive season, adding that provinces not affected would increase output. Fast food businesses are making contingency plans.

Nando's South Africa CEO Mike Cathie said: "This is not business unusual for us, and we have therefore planned accordingly to mitigate shortages to the best of our ability. At this stage, we are confident we will be able to meet demand and have a strong contingency plan in place should shortages continue into the festive season."

Cathie said avian flu was a seasonal occurrence in the sector, and therefore suppliers were well-versed in the steps needed to contain outbreaks.

Nando's spokesperson Nontobeko Sibiyi said the company sourced its chicken from several local suppliers that could meet high specifications for fresh chicken, reducing the risk of supply shortages.

Chicken Licken spokesperson Chantal Sombonos-Van Tonder said Chicken Licken did not need to find additional supply or imports at this stage.

"We will not import chicken at all. Our supplier of chicken is Rainbow Chicken, and they have advised us that we will have supply," said Sombonos-Van Tonder.

Still, Rainbow Chicken said this week the outbreak had affected 11 of its 19 sites in the inland region, with an estimated 410,000 birds culled and an estimated R115m financial impact.

"All things necessary are being done to efficiently manage and mitigate supply-chain disruptions. However, it is essential to acknowledge that there is tension in the supply chain," RCL, which owns the Rainbow Chicken brand, said in a notice to shareholders.

Rainbow Chicken said it was monitoring the supply chain, adding it has a strong track record in managing and mitigating supply disruptions.

Jacques Roets, divisional commodities manager for the Spar Group, said the retailer's mitigation measures included stock management, diversification of its supply network, and stringent quality control.

"We are managing stock levels to align with our normal average demand. This in-

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GIVING 'EM BELL

Executives of JSE- and Nasdaq-listed South African fintech company Lesaka Technologies 'rang the bell' marking the close of trading at the technology-heavy Nasdaq exchange on Thursday. Group CFO Naem Kola, left, and CEO Chris Meyer were hosted by Nasdaq while on an investor roadshow in New York for Lesaka's annual results.
Picture: Vanja Savic

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By

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Jorge Mendes Cell C CEO. Picture: LinkedIn



Former Mozambique finance minister Manuel Chang

11th-hour bid to settle Maputo's 'tuna bond'

● Mozambique's lawsuit against Credit Suisse and shipbuilder Prinvest over the decade-old "tuna bond" scandal could pitch one of the world's poorest nations against corporate heavyweights in a R28bn-plus battle this week.

The Maputo government and Credit Suisse's parent UBS were locked in out-of-court settlement talks on Friday, according to one source in Mozambique's attorney-general office and two sources familiar with the situation, who asked not to be identified because the negotiations are confidential.

The 11th-hour bid to secure a deal would allow Swiss banking giant UBS to resolve an inherited legal headache and escape the scrutiny of a three-month London high court trial due to start tomorrow.

If talks fail, the Swiss bank, three of its former staff, UAE-Lebanese shipbuilder Prinvest and its French boss Iskandar Safa will have to defend their roles in deals designed to finance a fishing fleet and maritime security.

In the case, also known as the "hidden debt" scandal, hundreds of millions of dollars went missing, Mozambique was pitched into a protracted economic downturn and Maputo and Washington launched criminal

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