

MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coega Welcomes San Miguel Lemon Processing Plant to the Special Economic Zone



The Coega Development Corporation is proud to officially welcome San Miguel to Zone 3 of the Coega Special Economic Zone. **Images courtesy of San Miguel**

Gqeberha, South Africa, 23 July 2024 – The Coega Development Corporation (Coega) is pleased to welcome San Miguel’s newest processing plant to the Coega Special Economic

Zone (SEZ), in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape. Situated in the Zone 3 General Manufacturing Cluster of the SEZ, the plant will focus on lemon processing and extraction for various end products.

With an investment value of approximately R490m, the Gqeberha plant aims to achieve 100,000 tons of lemon grinding annually by 2030 with its local partner African Pioneer Group. These natural ingredients will then be distributed to more than 200 customers in over 50 countries. In terms of its socio-economic impact, the facility directly employs 120 people and is expected to create 250 indirect jobs in the local community.

Coega's Senior Business Development Manager, Mr. Johan Fourie, explains that the Eastern Cape's citrus industry boasts significant potential for growth that would have a cascading impact on the socio-economic development of the region.

"The Eastern Cape citrus industry has the potential to diversify the economy and create many jobs. Existing export channels and a strong reputation create a solid foundation for further growth," says Fourie.

The Eastern Cape is the second-largest citrus producer in South Africa, which is the world's second-largest exporter of citrus fruit. Supported by well-established infrastructure and expertise, the Eastern Cape region contributes significantly to the success of the industry.

Chief Executive Officer of San Miguel Global, Mr. Pablo Pla, explains that the facility forms part of San Miguel Global's Strategic Redirection Process. With lemon processing facilities in Argentina, Uruguay and now South Africa, San Miguel has reinforced its position as a multi-national leader in agroprocessing.



“The facility marks a significant milestone in San Miguel’s history. Our new industrial lemon processing plant in Coega is designed to produce high-quality natural ingredients such as lemon essential oil, concentrated juice, and peel for industrial and animal feed use.

This project not only strengthens our position as the world's top processor, but also reflects our ongoing commitment to innovation and sustainable development,” says Pla.

The arrival of the San Miguel facility in the Coega SEZ signifies a significant step forward for the region’s expanding agroprocessing sector. It joins a consortium of established industry players, solidifying the Coega SEZ as a hub for the development of the agroprocessing sector.

For more information about San Miguel, visit: <https://www.sanmiguelglobal.com>

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About Coega: The Coega Development Corporation is headquartered in the City of Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, South Africa, with a strategic operational footprint in South Africa and beyond the borders on the African continent. Coega’s vision is to be the leading catalyst for the championing of socio-economic development. This it seeks to achieve through the development and operation of the 9 003-hectare Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a transshipment hub and a leading investment destination in Africa, providing highly skilled competence and capacity for the execution of complex infrastructure and related projects throughout South Africa and selected markets on the African continent, and advisory on the development of industrialisation and logistics zones. Coega’s advanced capabilities are successful enablers in sustainable economic zone development and management, real assets management, infrastructure planning and development, technology integration while realising related socio-economic impact areas such as skills and SMME development. Coega’s high-performance ethos is grounded in its commitment to sustainable development, the protection of its people and the planet, and the delivery of infrastructure solutions that support a just social and economic transition to a low-carbon, resource efficient, and climate resilient future. The foundational culture of Coega’s approach, backed by its core values, is innovation and continuous improvement.

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