

GENERAL NOTICES ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

NOTICE 802 OF 2007

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996, AS AMENDED (ACT No. 47 OF 1996)

RED MEAT INDUSTRY -

- REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES RELATING TO LEVIES, REGISTRATION AND RECORDS & RETURNS
 - DIRECTLY AFFECTED GROUPS ARE INVITED TO FORWARD ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED STATUTORY MEASURES
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It is hereby made known that in terms of section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996), the Minister of Agriculture has received a request from the red meat industry for the continuation of statutory measures relating to levies, registration, the keeping of records and the rendering of returns.

The Red Meat Industry Forum (RMIF), on behalf of the directly affected groups in the red meat industry applied for the statutory measures. The current statutory measures for the red meat industry were introduced on 5 November 2005 and will expire on 4 November 2007. RMIF requested ministerial approval for the continuation of these statutory measures for a new period of three years, to lapse on 4 November 2010. In terms of this application, the red meat industry refers mainly to role-players involved in the production and marketing of cattle, goats, sheep and its products. The pork industry made a separate application for statutory measures in February 2007.

The purpose of the statutory measures relating to registration and records & returns is to compel certain role-players in the red meat industry to register with the Meat Statutory Measure Services (MSMS), a Section 21 Company to be formed in the near future (before November 2007) and also to compel them to keep records and render the returns to MSMS. It is envisaged that MSMS will outsource some of the functions relating to the administration of the proposed statutory measures. These statutory measures will enable MSMS to process and publish accurate information to all role-players in order for them to make informed decisions.

The RMIF proposed that the current level of statutory levies in the red meat industry remain unchanged (*inter alia* R5 per head of cattle, R0.75 per head of sheep and R0.03 per kg on imported red meat). The proposed new statutory levy will finance the following functions –

- ❑ Consumer assurance
- ❑ Consumer communication and education
- ❑ Development of the developing sector
- ❑ Livestock product research and development
- ❑ Industry liaison
- ❑ Production development
- ❑ Administration

It is envisaged that the red meat industry will collect an amount of approximately R16.0 million per annum to finance the above-mentioned functions.

As the proposed statutory measures requested by the RMIF are *prima facie* consistent with the objectives of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, No 49 of 1996, the Minister requested the National Agricultural Marketing Council to investigate the possible implementation of the relevant statutory measures.

Directly affected groups in the red meat industry are kindly requested to submit any comments regarding the proposed statutory measures to the National Agricultural Marketing Council in writing within 14 days of the publication hereof to enable the Council to formulate its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

Submissions must be in writing and be addressed to:

National Agricultural Marketing Council
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0001
Enquiries: Schalk Burger
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