

NOTICE 1074 OF 2008**COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC****APPLICATION FOR A NEW TERM OF STATUTORY MEASURES ON
TABLE GRAPES**

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the South African Table Grape Industry (SATI) on behalf of the South African Table Grapes (SAT), for the implementation of a new term of statutory measures (registration, records & returns, and levies), on table grapes exported, in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No. 47 of 1996. It is proposed that the statutory measures be implemented for a four year period.

Currently, the following statutory measures are applicable on table grapes:

- Keeping of records and returns
- Registration of directly affected groups
- Payment of statutory levies

The current term on table grapes were implemented on 12 November 2004 and will lapse on 30 September 2008.

SATI also argued that the statutory measures requested herewith, are necessary to compel exporters of table grapes to render returns on an individual basis so that market and production information for the whole of the country can be processed and disseminated. Obligatory registration will ensure that the statutory measures relating to records and returns, as well as levies, can be applied successfully.

It is proposed that the levy on table grapes exported, be increased from 5c/kg to 8c/kg, and that the payment of the levy will finance the following activities in the table grape industry:

- Market access issues, including trade issues;
- Information and communication;
- Research, and technology and technical transfer; and
- Transformation and training.

It is also argued that these statutory measures will not be detrimental to food security, the number of employment opportunities within the economy or to fair labour practice. In fact, the SATI argues that they are aimed at growing the competitiveness and capacity of the industry.

Directly affected groups (e.g. producers, traders, agents, exporters and export inspection bodies) in the table grape industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory measures, to the NAMC on or before 19 September 2008, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

ENQUIRIES:

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