

NOTICE 688 OF 2011**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF)****DRAFT PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL, 2011****INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I, Tina Joemat-Petterson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries hereby invite all interested institutions, organizations and individuals to submit written comments on the draft Plant Breeders' Rights Amendment Bill.

Some of the key amendments include:

- extending protection to all plant genera and species.
- addressing matters of infringement of plant breeders' rights through the appropriate fines and penalties and defining the limits and the beneficiaries in the application of farmer's privilege,
- clarifying administrative matters including documentation requirements, submission of the plant material for evaluation and making non-confidential information available to interested and affected parties,
- empowering the Minister to establish a Plant Breeders' Rights Advisory Committee to advise the Registrar on matters related to plant variety protection,
- providing for the hearing of an application for and issuance of a compulsory license,
- amending the structure of the legislation by consolidating related sections into relevant chapters, and
- strengthening the administrative system to achieve the principles of fairness and transparency.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained from the office of the Registrar: Plant Breeders' Rights, e-mail: NoluthandoN@daff.gov.za and from the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za).

Please follow the steps below to view the draft Bill from the website:

- Step one: Open the DAFF website, www.daff.gov.za
- Step two: Click on Legislation
- Step three: Click on Bills
- Step four: Open the Plant Breeders' Rights draft Bill

Interested stakeholders wishing to comment are kindly requested to forward their written comments to the Registrar: Plant Breeders' Rights within 60 days of the date of the publication of this notice.

All correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. N. Netnou-Nkoana, Registrar: Plant Breeders' Rights at any of the following:

Post to: Private Bag X973, Pretoria, 0001; or

Deliver to: 253 Harvest House, 30 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, Pretoria; or

Fax to: 012 319 6385; or

Email to: NoluthandoN@daff.gov.za

Please note that comments received after the closing date may be disregarded. The Registrar: Plant Breeder's Rights may be reached at Tel. (012) 319 6183 for any enquiries.