

NOTICE 543 OF 2013**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF)****DRAFT NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE AMENDMENT BILL, 2013****INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby invite all interested institutions, organizations and individuals to submit written comments on the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill.

Some of the key amendments of the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill include:

Clear definition of the veldfire

- Provision for the penalty to the state, state owned entity and municipalities for not acquiring membership of the Fire Protection Association.
- Assignment, delegations and administration of matters pertaining to veld and forest fire management to MECs and municipal councils
- Provisions for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forestry Resources
- Provisions for the establishment and functioning of the Forestry Resources Review Board

Copies of the Legislation amendment may be obtainable from the Directorate Forestry Regulation, email: Shumanid@daff.gov.za and LukeR@daff.gov.za from the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za).

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

- Step one: Open the DAFF website, www.daff.gov.za
- Step two: On the left menu click on Legislation
- Step three: Select Bills
- Step four : Open the Forestry Amendment Bill

Interested stakeholders wishing to comment are kindly requested to forward their written comments to the Directorate: Forestry Regulation and Oversight within 30 days of the date of the publication of this notice.

Post to: Private Bag X 93, Pretoria, 0001; or

Deliver To: 110 Hamilton building, Pretoria; or

Fax to: 012 309 5840; or

Email to: shumanid@daff.gov.za or LukeR@daff.gov.za

Please note that comments received after the closing date may be disregarded. The Directorate Forestry Regulation may be reached at Tel. (012) 309 5765 or 309 5756 for any enquires.