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## GENERAL NOTICE

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### NOTICE 823 OF 2008

#### NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL

#### APPLICATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES (LEVIES, REGISTRATION, RECORDS & RETURNS) IN THE CITRUS FRUIT INDUSTRY

#### COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa (CGA), in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No. 47 of 1996, for the continuation of statutory measures (registration, records & returns, and levies) in the citrus fruit industry.

The following statutory measures, expiring 25 August 2008, are currently in place in the citrus fruit industry:

- Payment of statutory levies in terms of section 15 of the MAP Act (32 cents per 15 kg carton levy payable on fresh citrus fruit to be exported);
- Keeping of records and returns in terms of section 18 of the MAP Act; and
- Registration in terms of section 19 of the MAP Act.

It is proposed that the requested implementation of the new term of statutory measures will be for a new four-year period, effective from the envisaged implementation date, 1 September 2008, expiring four (4) years later (from date of implementation).

In terms of registration and records & returns, it is argued that the maintenance of macro industry statistics and market information is critical for long-term planning relating to production, orderly marketing and infrastructural capacity by the industry (producers and exporters), Government and service and / or input suppliers.

Currently citrus exporters are paying 2.13 cents per kg (32 cents per 15 kg carton) on fresh citrus fruit exported. The proposed new levies are:

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|------------------------------|---|
| - 2008                       | 2.13 cents per kg (32 cents per 15 kg carton) |
| (until end of December 2008) | (currently applicable)                        |
| - 2009                       | 2.53 cents per kg (38 cents per 15 kg carton) |
| - 2010                       | 2.60 cents per kg (39 cents per 15 kg carton) |
| - 2011                       | 2.67 cents per kg (40 cents per 15 kg carton) |
| - 2012                       | 2.73 cents per kg (41 cents per 15 kg carton) |

The proposed levy income will be used for the funding and provision of the following functions in the citrus industry:

- production research and development,
- plant improvement,
- information and statistics,
- market access and development of new export markets, and
- transformation.

As the proposed statutory measures are *prima facie* consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act, the Minister requested the NAMC to investigate the possible implementation thereof.

Directly affected groups, (e.g. producers, traders, agents, exporters and export inspection bodies), in the citrus industry are hereby invited to forward, in writing, comments regarding the proposed statutory measures, to the NAMC on / or before 18 July 2008, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

**ENQUIRIES:**

National Agricultural Marketing Council

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