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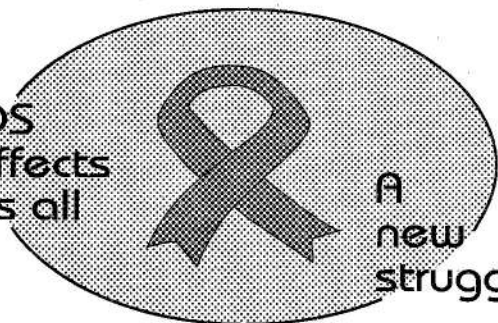
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PRETORIA, 17 JULY
JULIE 2000

No. 21385

We all have the power to prevent AIDS

AIDS
affects
us all



A
new
struggle

Prevention is the cure

**AIDS
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 2602 OF 2000

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996

(ACT No. 47 OF 1996)

REQUEST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES IN THE DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY

It is hereby made known in terms of section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996), that the Minister of Agriculture has received a request for the implementation of statutory measures in terms of section 10 and 11 of the said Act as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Directly affected groups are hereby invited to lodge any objection or representation regarding the proposed statutory measures with the National Agricultural Marketing Council within 14 days of the publication thereof.

Submissions should be in writing and be addressed to:

**The Chairperson
National Agricultural Marketing Council
Private Bag X 935
PRETORIA
0001
Fax No.: (012) 341 1811
Enquiries: Ms Marelize Human
Tel.: (012) 341 1115**

M.G. RATHOGWA

CHAIRPERSON: NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL

**REQUEST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES IN THE
DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996
(ACT NO 47 OF 1996), AS AMENDED**

1. STATUTORY MEASURE – LEVIES

The statutory measure requested to be implemented, is that the Minister, in terms of section 15 of the Act, by notice in the Government Gazette, direct that levies be paid by producers on all export and domestic volumes relating to the products indicated below to the Deciduous Fruit Producers' Trust (DFPT) for the funding and provision of:

- i) Research projects, information and technology transfer;
- ii) Plant Improvement;
- iii) Information and market statistics; and
- iv) Market development and access to new markets,

as approved and mandated by the South African Apple & Pear Producers' Association (SAAPPA), the South African Stone Fruit Producers' Association (SASPA) and the South African Table Grape Producers' Association (SATPA) and stipulated in the final budget and business plan still to be submitted.

The amounts of the proposed levies on the related products are as follows:

1. Table Grapes	5c/kg on export volumes
2. Plums	5c/kg on export volumes
3. Peaches/Nectarines	6,5c/kg on export volumes and domestic volumes
4. Apricots	9,6c/kg on export volumes and domestic volumes
5. Pears	2c/kg on export volumes and domestic volumes
6. Apples	2c/kg on export volumes and domestic volumes

2. STATUTORY MEASURE – RECORDS AND RETURNS

The statutory measure requested to be implemented, is that the Minister, in terms of section 18 of the Act, by notice in the Government Gazette, direct the keeping of records and returns to ensure the availability and provision of continuous, timeous and accurate information relating to products indicated above, to all stakeholders in the deciduous fruit industry deemed to be essential to ensure informed decision making and a stable profitable industry.

3. STATUTORY MEASURE – REGISTRATION

The statutory measure requested to be implemented, is that the Minister, in terms of section 19 of the Act, by notice in the Government Gazette, direct the registration of producers and exporters to:

- i) Ensure the availability and provision of continuous, timeous and accurate information relating to the products indicated above;
- ii) Adherence to sound fruit handling disciplines and protocols, business principles and minimum financial guarantees to be made applicable to exporting agents.

4. INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 10 OF THE ACT

The particulars as required by section 10 of the Act to be included in a request for the implementation of statutory measures provided by the applicant, are as follows:

- 4.1 The statutory measures requested to be implemented, would relate to the following products:
 - Table Grapes
 - Stone fruits (Plums, Peaches/Nectarines and Apricots)
 - Pome fruits (Apples and Pears)
- 2.2 The categories of directly affected groups which would probably be affected by the establishment of the proposed statutory measures, are those groups of persons who are party to the production, purchasing and processing of deciduous fruit as well as the consumption of deciduous fruit in the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.3 Letters of support/objection for the proposed implementation of the statutory measures on deciduous fruit, by the different categories of directly affected and other groups in the deciduous fruit industry will soon be received.
- 2.4 The proposed statutory measures will apply to the whole of the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.5 According to the applicant, the proposed statutory measures, will further the objectives of the Act as stipulated in section 2(2) thereof. Such measures will also not contravene section 2(3) of the Act.
- 2.6 The manner in which the objectives referred to in section 2(2) of the Act will be furthered (namely the increasing of market access for all market participants, the promotion of the efficiency of the marketing of agricultural products, the optimisation of export earnings from agricultural products and the enhancement of the viability of the agricultural sector), are summarised below:

Registration, Records and Returns

The maintenance of macro industry statistics and market information is regarded as critical for long-term planning relating to production, orderly marketing and infrastructural capacity by the industry (producers and exporters), government and service/input suppliers.

International marketing transactions and overseas investment, which is good for the country as a whole, as well as for job creation are encouraged by the availability of timeous and accurate industry information. No industry can effectively compete in the international commodity arena without such information and is also a prerequisite for the South African industry to strategically position itself in a very competitive international fresh produce environment distorted by various interventions in free trade.

The statutory measure requested herewith, are necessary to compel the directly affected groups 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 supplied successfully.

Research and Development, Training and Technology Transfer

The South African deciduous fruit industry can only prosper over the long-term if it is an effective global player. This means offering the international market only the best quality fruit, which conforms in all respects to the market demands and requirements at the lowest costs and with the most effective distribution and logistical systems.

Applied and basic research and technological development is the basis of international competitiveness, and thus of the sustainable profitability of the industry. Sufficient and a stable source of R&D funds are therefore of the utmost importance to realise the international opportunities for the industry, whilst the effective transfer and implementation of new technology are vital to ensure cutting edge production and fruit handling practices.

The industry utilises various centers of excellence in the spheres of the R&D (breeding and evaluation, horticulture, pest management, plant pathology and bio-technology, post harvest and soil science), technical services, training and the transfer of technology to ensure the competitive edge it requires to maintain profitability in a very hostile international environment.

Market Access

Various sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) restrictions, special market protocols and Pest Risk Analysis (PRA's), coupled to food safety, tracking and tracing, as well as maximum residue limits (MRL's) resulting in a systems approach to ensure conformance to market demands (a much

broader approach to quality issues than ever before) needs to be addressed on an industry basis. Close co-operation with the National and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry and Foreign Affairs, as well as with the PPECB and expert industry capacity is required to effectively deal with this aspect.

Plant Improvement and Certification

A number of services are being addressed on an industry basis, some of which were previously dealt with by Government. This includes dealing with certain quarantine organisms, genetic upgrading of cultivars, phytosanitary upgrading of plant material, horticultural evaluation, the maintenance of nucleus, foundation and mother blocks, as well as the multiplication and certification of superior plant material.

- 2.7 The applicant suggested that the proposed statutory measures come into operation from 1 October 2000 and lapse on 30 September 2004.
 - 2.8 It is proposed that the DFPT is the most appropriate body to which to assign the implementation, inspection and enforcement of the statutory measures requested.
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