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National Agricultural
Marketing Council

Promoting market access for South African agriculture

APPLICATION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO STATUTORY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN TERMS OF THE
MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996, (ACT NO 47 OF 1996), (MAP ACT) AS
AMENDED

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INVITATION TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED GROUPS IN THE MAIZE INDUSTRY TO FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING THE REQUEST FROM THE MAIZE FORUM FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE EXISTING STATUTORY MEASURE RELATING TO RECORDS AND RETURNS IN RESPECT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MAIZE

The current statutory measure in terms of Section 18 of the MAP Act, administered by the South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS), include the following:

Records and weekly returns on maize and/or wheat imports and/or exports:

Each end-consumer, importer, storer, exporter and processor of maize and/or wheat shall keep complete records for each week (Saturday to Friday) in respect of maize and/or wheat imported or exported by him, and submit to SAGIS an accurate return in respect of physical exports and imports that realised during the past week. These shall also include any person, e.g. a producer, agent, trader, transporter etc. who acts in the capacity of the aforementioned persons.

This statutory measure was implemented on 4 June 2008 and continued on 9 September 2011 to lapse on 30 April 2016. On 25 November 2015, the Minister again approved the continuation of the statutory measure, to lapse on 30 April 2020.

Although this statutory measure directs that actual and physical imports and exports are weekly recorded by SAGIS, intended import and export transactions where firm contracts have been concluded, are not included.

On 22 August 2017, the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) received a request from the Maize Forum for the amendment of the existing statutory measure, namely to include that 'every importer and exporter of maize shall issue a weekly declaration to SAGIS containing all the required information pertaining to maize that is intended to be imported or exported, provided that the quantities to be imported or exported be declared eight weeks prior to the date on which the vessel transporting the maize arrive or depart from South Africa'.

MOTIVATION BY THE APPLICANT:

The purpose and aim of the proposed amendment is to further the efficacy of the maize market in South Africa in respect of the gathering and dissemination of information to all market participants to the benefit of the maize industry as a whole.

The maintenance of macro industry information is regarded as critical for strategic planning by the maize industry, as well as for directly affected groups individually.

In order for the market to operate effectively, the industry regards the provision of proper and accurate market information to all role-players, on a continuous basis, as essential. SAGIS has since its establishment been accepted, both nationally and internationally, as an objective and reliable supplier of information.

Additional information with regard to intended maize imports and exports, which is provided continuously and timeously, will increase market access for all participants and promote the efficiency in the marketing of maize and maize products. Such information will also enhance the viability of the maize industry and the agricultural sector at large.

The proposed additional market information will also enhance food security by making available the information on intended imports and exports that would influence national stock levels of maize. The measure will not be detrimental to the number of job opportunities within the economy, or to fair labour practice.

Maize and maize products are annually exported to neighbouring countries. In record crop years it is also exported overseas. In order to achieve optimisation of export earnings, reliable information is essential with regard to the exports that are intended.

INVITATION FOR COMMENTS:

As the proposed amendment to the existing statutory measure is consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act, the NAMC is investigating the possible implementation of the proposed amendment, in order to make a recommendation to the Minister.

Directly affected groups in the maize industry are kindly requested to submit comments or objections regarding the proposed amendment to the NAMC in writing (fax 012 341 1911 or e-mail lizettem@namc.co.za) on or before 22 September 2017, to enable the Council to formulate its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.