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## **NEWS STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL**

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### **REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES RELATING TO REGISTRATIONS AND RECORDS & RETURNS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILK INDUSTRY, IN TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT**

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#### **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS / INPUTS FROM ROLE PLAYERS IN THE MILK INDUSTRY**

It is hereby made known that in terms of section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No.47 of 1996) (MAP Act), that the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has received a request from the milk industry for the continuation of statutory measures, relating to registrations and the keeping of records and rendering returns. The applicant for the proposed statutory measures is the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO), on behalf of the directly affected groups in the milk industry. The MPO is a voluntary producer organisation and is a non-profit company in terms of the Companies Act. It has the required capacity in terms of personnel, infrastructure and skills to administer the statutory measures. The current statutory measures in the milk industry will lapse on 1 November 2019. The MPO requested ministerial approval for the continuation of these statutory measures for a new period of four years, until 1 November 2023. The statutory measures will relate to milk which is defined in the Agricultural Product Standards Act as "the normal secretion of the mammary glands of bovines, goats and sheep".

The purpose and aim of the statutory measure relating to registration is to compel the milk producers of the Republic of South Africa to register with the MPO. The registration of milk producers will assist the industry to liaise with them regarding matters of concern such as legislation, training courses and technology transfer. This will also facilitate the maintenance of a national data base which is a prerequisite for the publication of reliable industry statistics.

The purpose and aim of the statutory measure relating to records & returns is to provide a statutory mechanism for milk producers to keep records and furnish returns to the MPO. It will be expected from each milk producer, within 15 days after 31 October of each year, to furnish accurate returns to the MPO. This is deemed necessary to ensure that continuous, timeous and accurate statistics and information relating to the dairy farming industry is made available to all role-players. Recordkeeping of the dairy cattle population will create statistics per province and districts of the number of cows, bulls, heifers and breeds. It will then be possible to follow changing population trends per province in order for the industry to predict milk production trends. The monitoring of trends of herd sizes and dairy breeds as well as the location thereof will assist the industry in the steering of its educational, research, extension and health programmes.

According to the applicant (MPO), the proposed continuation of the statutory measures will further the objectives of the MAP Act as stipulated in section 2(2) thereof. Such establishment will also not contravene section 2(3) of the Act, namely will not be detrimental to food security, the number of employment opportunities within the economy or fair labour practices. The objectives referred to in section 2(2) of the Act are to increase market access for all market participants, to promote the efficiency of the marketing of agricultural products, to optimise export earnings from agricultural products and to enhance the viability of the agricultural sector.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) took cognisance that the proposed continuation of the statutory measures relating to registration and the keeping of records and the rendering of returns in the milk industry as requested by the MPO, is consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act. The request is currently being investigated by the NAMC and recommendations in this regard will be made to the Minister in the near future. It is envisaged that the explanatory notes regarding the proposed statutory measures will be published in the *Government Gazette* of 23 August 2019.

**Directly affected groups in the milk industry are kindly requested to submit any comments regarding the proposed continuation of statutory measures, to the NAMC on or before 6 September 2019, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in regard. Submissions should be in writing and be addressed to:**

**National Agricultural Marketing Council**

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**PRETORIA**

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