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## **APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF STATUTORY MEASURES ON UNPROCESSED MILK**

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### **NAMC REQUESTING COMMENTS**

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It is hereby made known that in terms of section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act, No. 47) of 1996), that on 13 July 2023, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development received a request from the milk industry for the renewal of statutory measures relating to registrations of unprocessed milk producers of South Africa and the submissions of records and returns. The applicant for the proposed statutory measures is the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) on behalf of directly affected groups in the milk industry. The MPO is a voluntary producer organisation and non-profit company in terms of the Companies Act. The organisation has the required capacity in terms of personnel, infrastructure, and skills to administer the proposed statutory measures. The requested statutory measures will be for a new period of four years, effective from 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2027. The statutory measures will relate to milk which is defined in the Agricultural Product Standards Act of 1990 (No. 119 of 1990) as "the normal secretion of the mammary glands of bovines, goats and sheep".

The objectives of and motivation for the statutory measure relating to registrations is to compel the producers of unprocessed milk in the Republic of South Africa, to register with the MPO. Furthermore, this statutory measure will assist the MPO to liaise with the producers regarding matters of concern such as legislation, training courses and technology transfer; including facilitating the maintenance of a national database which is a prerequisite for the publication of reliable industry statistics. This statutory measure will also assist the MPO to identify and liaises with new entrants and small scale- and subsistence milk farmers.

The objectives of and motivation for the statutory measure relating to records and returns will create statistics per province and district of the numbers of cows, bulls, heifers, and breeds. This will assist to follow changing population trends per province for the industry to predict milk production trends. Lastly, to monitor the trends of herd sizes and dairy breeds as well as the location thereof to assist the industry in the steering of its education, research, extension, and health programmes.

According to the applicant (MPO), the proposed renewal of the statutory measures will further the objectives of the MAP Act as stipulated in section 2(2), namely to increase market access for all 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. Moreover, the renewal will not contravene section 2(3) of the MAP Act, namely it will not be detrimental to food security, the number of employment opportunities within the economy or to fair labour practices.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) took cognisance that the proposed renewal of the statutory measures relating to registration and the submission of records and returns in the milk industry, as requested by the MPO, is consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act. Currently, the request is being investigated by the NAMC and recommendations in this regard will be made to the Minister in the near future.

**Directly affected groups in the milk industry, are kindly requested to submit any comments regarding the proposed renewal of statutory measures, to the NAMC on or before 04 August 2023, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard. Submissions should be in writing and be addressed to:**

**National Agricultural Marketing Council**

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