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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 459 OF 2003**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY****1. NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS AMENDMENT BILL, 2003**

The National Small Business Council (NSBC) was liquidated in 1998. It is, therefore, necessary that all references to the NSBC in the National Small Business Act, 102 of 1996, be deleted and that a provision providing for alternative means for achieving the aims of the NSBC be inserted in the Act. Additional smaller amendments to the Act are also necessary to refine and clarify the role of Ntsika vis-à-vis the Department of Trade and Industry.

2. LIQUOR BILL

This Bill is a new draft encapsulating the policy principles previously agreed to with stakeholders, but addressing the constitutional matters raised by the Constitutional Court in its judgement on the Bill. In particular, the Bill does not seek to regulate matters in the exclusive jurisdiction of provinces, such as the licensing of the retail and micro-manufacture of liquor, although it does set out matters of principle. It further creates a national licensing function for the manufacture and wholesale of liquor, in line with the Constitutional Court judgement, and sets out national norms and standards. Finally, the new Bill provides for a policy formulation and coordination mechanism in the form of a Policy Council, which consists of the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Members of the Executive Council of the provinces, giving expression and content to the concept of co-operative governance.

Upon the introduction of the Bills into Parliament, copies can be obtained from:

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