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GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE 888 OF 2008

DRIED FRUIT INDUSTRY

APPLICATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF STATUTORY MEASURERS

COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the Dried Fruit Technical Services (DFTS), in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No, 47 of 1996, for the continuation of statutory measures (registration, records & returns and levies). It is proposed that the statutory measures be implemented for a new four year period.

Currently, the following statutory measures are applicable in the dried deciduous fruit industry:

- Keeping of records and returns;
- Registration of persons; and
- Payment of statutory levies (the proposed levy, on locally produced and imported dried deciduous fruit into South Africa, is to finance Information and communication, Research and Technology development; Transformation and training; International liaison and Administration)

The NAMC believes that the measures requested are consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act).

The DFTS is acting on behalf of its directors who represent the following directly affected groups in the dried fruit industry:

- Dried Vine Fruits Producers Organisation
- Dried Tree Fruits Advisory Committee (dried tree fruit producers)
- South African National Consumer Union
- SA Farm Workers Association
- Developing Agriculture

The DFTS proposed the following levy amounts for the new period:

	Current levels	Proposed levy levels
Raisins	4 c/kg	5c/kg
Apricots, Apples, Peaches	8 c/kg	9 c/kg
Nectarines, pears, prunes	7 c/kg	8c/kg

It is argued that the proposed statutory measures will not be detrimental to food security, the number of employment opportunities within the economy or to fair labour practice. In fact, the DFTS argues that they are aimed at growing the competitiveness and capacity of the industry. The NAMC has no new evidence to suggest that this will not be the case.

Directly affected groups (e.g. exporter, importer, producers, processor, inspection bodies and agents) in the dried fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory measures, to the NAMC on or before 15 August 2008, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

ENQUIRIES:

National Agricultural Marketing Council

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NOTICE 889 OF 2008**DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY – PLUMS****APPLICATION FOR A STATUTORY LEVY ON PLUMS EXPORTED TO FUND
THE JOINT CONSUMER EDUCATION / MARKET DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM****COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC**

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the Deciduous Fruit Producers' Trust (DFPT) for the implementation of a new statutory levy on plums, in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No. 47 of 1996. It is proposed that the statutory levy be implemented for a four year period.

Currently, the following statutory measures are applicable in the deciduous fruit industry:

- Keeping of records and returns
- Registration of persons
- Payment of statutory levies

Statutory levies on pome and stone fruit were implemented on 19 October 2007 and will lapse on 30 September 2011.

Statutory levies on table grapes were implemented on 12 November 2004 and shall lapse on 30 September 2008.

The proposed new statutory levy (on plums only) will be for a new four year period, effective from the envisaged implementation date (1 October 2008). The levy (R0.50¹ per carton) will only be applicable on plums exported and used specifically to fund the development / consumer education programme planned in the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany.

¹ A levy of 50 cents per 5.25 kg carton

The following statutory measures are currently applicable on plums (expiring 30 September 2011):

- A Levy of 9.5c/kg (to finance research, plant improvement, information, communication and trade related issues);
- Records and Returns
- Registration

The DFPT applied on behalf of SASPA (SA Stone Fruit Producers' Association) for the implementation and administration of the statutory levy. Extensive market research was conducted during the latter half of 2007 and early 2008 in these markets. Roughly 45% of SA plums are traded in the UK & Germany. It is believed that such a programme will not only grow and develop these markets, but will support the international "footprint" of SA plums.

SASPA adopted the business plan in February 2008 which was subsequently approved by the plum producers *via* area information meetings and a ballot conducted during March and April 2008.

Directly affected groups (e.g. producers, traders, agents, exporters and export inspection bodies) in the deciduous fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory levy, to the NAMC on or before 8 August 2008, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

ENQUIRIES:

National Agricultural Marketing Council

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