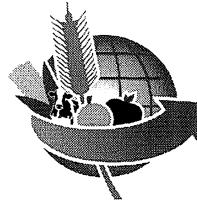

GENERAL NOTICES ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

NOTICE 33 OF 2014



National Agricultural
Marketing Council

Promoting market access for South African agriculture

APPLICATION FOR A STATUTORY MEASURE (LEVY) ON SORGHUM IN TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, ACT NO 47 OF 1996

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INVITATION TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED GROUPS IN THE SORGHUM INDUSTRY TO FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING THE REQUEST FROM THE SORGHUM FORUM

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) received a request from the Sorghum Forum, on behalf of directly affected groups in the sorghum industry, for the introduction and promulgation of a statutory measure, namely a levy of R10,00 per ton sorghum, excluding VAT, payable by the buyers, processors, importers and exporters of sorghum, for four years, to the Sorghum Trust. The existing sorghum levy of R16.00 per ton sorghum, VAT excluded, will lapse on 28 February 2014.

The purpose and aims of this statutory levy are to provide financial support for the sorghum information, transformation and research functions.

The budgeted income from the proposed levy is estimated at approximately R1.7 in 2014/15 and it could increase to R5.5 million in 2017/18. A gradual increase in the production of sorghum is foreseen over the period, due to the possible utilisation of sorghum for the manufacture of bio-fuels. The assumptions regarding increased crop sizes over the four year period are, however, entirely dependent on the actual implementation of the bio-fuel policy within the expected time-frame and the success thereof with the utilisation of sorghum for this purpose. An annual income of at least R2.1 million will ensure the continuation of information, research and transformation projects to the benefit of the sorghum industry.

Directly affected groups in the sorghum industry are kindly requested to submit any comments regarding the proposed statutory levy to the NAMC in writing (fax 012 341 1811/ 012 341 1911 or e-mail to lizettem@namc.co.za) before or on 14 February 2014, to enable the Council to formalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

Enquiries: Ms Lizette Mellet
National Agricultural Marketing Council
Private Bag X 935
PRETORIA
0001
Tel: 012 341 1115
Fax: 012 341 1911