

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 16 MAY 2023,

MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT

Dr J Jaffha (Chairperson)
 Dr B Ntshabele
 Ms T Masilela
 Dr M Matlala
 Ms P Campbell
 Ms J Mhlophe
 Dr M Jugmohan-Naidu
 Prof. G Bouwer

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
 Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
 Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
 Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
 Department of Health (DoH)
 Department of Employment and Labour (DEL)
 Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
 Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997

APOLOGIES

Dr T Makholela
 Mr B Durham
 Ms T Ndukwana
 Dr A Sigobodhla

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
 Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
 Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic)
 Department of Health (DoH)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Madzivhandila
 Mr B Kgope
 Ms F Mpikanisi
 Ms P Mampolelo
 Ms B Mathebula
 Mr S Mokhothu
 Ms B Mahlangu
 Ms R Ngoepe
 Ms N.L. Mkhonza

Department of Health (DoH)
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
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 Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	The EC Chairperson welcomed those present at the EC meeting.	EC Chairperson
2.	ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES	The OoR noted the attendance since this was a virtual meeting.	EC Chairperson
3.	ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	The agenda was adopted with no additions.	All
4.	APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 07 MARCH 2023	The record of proceedings of 07 March 2023 was approved.	All

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5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS		
5.1	Appeal lodged in terms of the GMO Act (EC Chairperson)	The EC noted that the Minister's final decision is still outstanding.	EC
6.	Compliance/Non-compliance	<p>a. <u>Inspections</u> The OoR informed the EC that no inspection reports were received in April 2023.</p> <p>b. <u>Annual Reports</u> The OoR informed the EC that no annual reports were received in April 2023.</p> <p>c. <u>Corteva's request for additional trial sites for TC1507xNK603 maize seed production trial release</u> The EC's decision for Corteva's request for additional trial sites for TC1507xNK603 maize is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.</p>	OoR
7.	APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC (REGISTRAR)		Registrar
	Time extensions, amendments to (existing) permits, import and exports		
7.1	Bayer - 23/226: Import and trial release extension of MON95379 maize	The EC approved Bayer- 23/226: Import and trial release extension application of MON95379 maize subject to submission of final field trial report by the applicant.	EC
	Commodity clearance		
7.2	Syngenta- 22/220: Commodity clearance of 3272 x Bt11 x MIR162 x GA21	The EC approved Syngenta- 22/220: Commodity clearance application of 3272 x Bt11 x MIR162 x GA21 maize.	EC
	General release		
7.3	BASF-22/009: General release of GHB614 x LL cotton (GLxLL)	The EC's decision on BASF-22/009: General release application of GHB614 x LL cotton is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.	EC

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	Trial release and import and /or export	None	
	Contained use and import and/or export	None	
		None	
8	Application considered by EC in April 2023 (intersessional)		
	<u>General release</u>		
8.1	Bayer - 22/222: General release for MON87427 maize	The EC approved Bayer-22/222: General release application of MON87427 maize.	EC
9	Standing matters		
9.1	Regulatory and policy developments (All)	<p>(i) The DFFE informed the EC that Ms N Tshidada has taken up a new role and will not be participating in biosafety matters.</p> <p>(ii) The DFFE further informed the EC that the white paper on conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity has been approved by Cabinet. The DFFE indicated that the white paper presents the opportunity to domesticate the Kunming Montreal global biodiversity framework targets and they will conduct a consultation with the biosafety stakeholder in June 2023 in this regard.</p> <p>(iii) The EC Chairperson requested feedback from the respective departments that attended the 2023 Symposium of the International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR2023) that was held on 30 April to 04 May 2023. The DSI indicated that they had a representative at the meeting and will provide feedback at the July 2023 EC meeting.</p>	<p>DFFE</p> <p>DSI</p>
9.2	Cartagena Protocol (All)	<p>(i) The DFFE informed the EC of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2023 there was an open-ended online forum on synthetic biology and the nominated experts from South Africa participated. • In April 2023 there was open-ended online forum on risk 	DFFE


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		assessment and the nominated experts from South Africa participated.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A first meeting of Multidisciplinary Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology to support the process for Broad and Regular Horizon Scanning, Monitoring and Assessment will be held in Montreal, Canada on 11–14 July 2023. An invitation to nominate experts to participate in the multidisciplinary group was issued and the due date for nomination has been extended to 18 May 2023. The COP-MOP 10 welcomed the 8th replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility Trust Fund and its programmes, which will also include the funding of biosafety activities. The funding cycle is from July 2023 to March 2026 and South Africa is eligible to receive funding for biosafety projects and DFFE is intending to make a submission in this regard. 	EC
10.	General	(ii) The EC noted the feedback and requested the DFFE to share the invitation for nomination of experts in the multidisciplinary group.	EC
10.1	Wheat objection	(i) The EC Chairperson informed the EC that he has received objections for the approval of GM wheat commodity clearance. (ii) The EC indicated that the due date for submission of objections/comments for consideration in the decision process has elapsed.	EC Chairperson EC
11.	Date of the next meeting	The EC noted that the next EC meeting is scheduled for 04 July 2023.	All
12.	Closure	The meeting was concluded at 10:26am.	All

Approved by EC Chairperson
Dr J Jaffha


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Signature

Approved by Registrar
Ms NL Mkhonza


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Signature