



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **EXTENSION OF THE COMMENTING PERIOD AND CLARIFICATION OF THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE 1 OF THE MEAT SAFETY ACT, 2000**

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) gazetted a document for public consultation on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 which seeks to gather inputs on the intended amendment to the schedule 1 of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000) (“the Act”).

The Meat Safety Act, 2000 defines an animal as any animal as referred to in Schedule 1 of the Act. This means that the Act applies only to animals that have been listed in Schedule 1, and any animal not covered in the Schedule is therefore not regulated by the Act. The implication of this is that animals that are not listed in the Schedule may be slaughtered without any regulatory oversight in terms of meat safety, as stipulated in the Meat Safety Act and its regulations. The DALRRD and competent provincial authorities can therefore not enforce the legislation on animals not listed and therefore anyone can slaughter such an animal without conformity to any standards.

The Act does not make any decisions on which animals are to be slaughtered, but ensures that should an animal listed in the Schedule be slaughtered, all requirements stipulated in the Act would have to be complied with to ensure meat safety, but also to ensure compliance to animal welfare requirements.

Listing an animal in the Schedule therefore does not encourage the slaughter of those listed animals. Contrary to some misconceptions regarding the purpose of the amendment of the schedule, the addition of more animals to the list will allow the regulators to have more control on how animals are slaughtered for human and animal consumption.

A decision on which animal can be slaughtered lies outside of the mandate of the Meat Safety Act. Legislation under the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, stipulate which wildlife animals are protected and endangered and therefore there is a regulatory framework on how to handle them, including their disposal and slaughter if that becomes a necessity. The slaughter of animals for human and animal consumption, as required under the Meat Safety Act, is subject to permissions of relevant other legislations, including conservation, food control, environmental health and animal welfare legislations.

The period for comments on the draft is hereby extended to the **30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**.

Regards

National Executive Officer: Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)

ISSUED ON 30 APRIL 2020