

MEDIA RELEASE

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LIFTING OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES EXPORTED FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO EGYPT

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is pleased to announce that on 4 September 2018 the government of Egypt lifted a temporary suspension of fresh fruit and vegetables exported from South Africa into Egypt. The temporary suspension was imposed by the Government of Egypt as a result of the detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in South Africa.

On 10 May 2018, Egypt notified the National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa (NPPOZA) of the DAFF about a temporary suspension of fresh fruit and vegetables exported from South Africa due to the outbreak of listeriosis in South Africa. Egypt's decision to lift the suspension followed after the South African Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi's announcement that the listeriosis outbreak was over and that no new cases had been reported in the last three months.

The DAFF would like to emphasise that all exporters of fresh fruit and vegetables must comply with all phytosanitary, food safety and quality requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables destined for Egypt export market.

The following DAFF directorate can be contacted for further information: Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards, Director: Food Import and Export Standards, Ms Salamina Maelane, tel: 012 319 6199, e-mail: <u>SalaminaM@daff.gov.za</u>

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