

**NOTICE 1493 OF 2006****NEWS STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING  
COUNCIL (NAMC)****APPLICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF EXISTING STATUTORY  
MEASURES (LEVIES, REGISTRATION AND RECORDS & RETURNS) IN THE  
RED MEAT INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTS ACT**

The Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs received a request from the Red Meat Industry Forum (RMIF), on behalf of the directly affected groups in the red meat industry, for the amendment of the existing statutory measures in the red meat industry. On 25 August 2006 the Minister referred the application to the National Agricultural Marketing Council for investigation and to make a recommendation to her.

The proposed amendments to the existing statutory measures in the red meat industry include *inter alia* the following:

- To change the existing levy administrator from a "private company with a single shareholder and director" to a "Section 21 Company".
- To exempt imported hides from the payment of a statutory levy.
- To indicate the commencement date and period of validity of the statutory measures.
- To change the definition of the word "abattoir" to be in line with the definition in the Meat Safety Act, 2002.
- The substitution of the definition of "meat retail outlet" with a definition of "meat trader" to cover all the market participants.
- To insert the definition "owner" of designated animals. This should clarify the fact that where an abattoir slaughters its own animals, the abattoir is responsible for the payment of the levy and obliged to pay it over to the levy administrator.

As the proposed amendments to the existing statutory measures are *prima facie* consistent with the objectives of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, No 49 of 1996, the Minister requested the National Agricultural Marketing Council to investigate the possible implementation thereof.

Further details of the application for the amendment of the statutory measures are available at the Offices of the National Agricultural Marketing Council.