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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 1489

02 DECEMBER 2016

**PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE PLANT HEALTH
(PHYTOSANITARY) BILL, 2016**

1. Notice is hereby given in terms of Rule 241 (1) (b) of the Rules of the National Assembly that the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries intends to introduce the Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill, 2016 in the National Assembly shortly.
2. The explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 241 (1) (c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.
3. The Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill, 2016 seeks to repeal those sections of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) that deal with phytosanitary matters, in order to strengthen and improve the phytosanitary regulatory system of South Africa in relation to trade. The Bill provides for: phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of regulated pests in the Republic, the control of regulated pests, regulation of the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles into, within and out of the Republic and to provide for matters connected therewith. It also seeks to address gaps and challenges in the current phytosanitary system in view of the obligation under the relevant international agreements and treaties to which South Africa is a signatory member and to adhere to the relevant principles and standards, and the requirement of this country major's trading partners. It aims to support the South African Government's priorities such as sustainable management and use of natural resources, the provision of effective national regulatory services and risk management systems as well as increased contribution of the sector to economic growth and development.

4. The main issues proposed in the Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill are as follows:
 - Alignment with the national and international plant health responsibilities and obligations in the interest of safe and fair trade.
 - Provision for appropriate export control and in-transit consignments in order to support trade-driven growth and job creation in the sector.
 - Provision for the establishment and functions of the National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa (NPPOZA).
 - Provision to provide for national control to prohibit and/or restrict the movement of potentially infested plant material from infested areas to non-infested areas.

5. The Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill, 2016 can be found on the websites of the Parliamentary Monitoring Group at <http://www.pmg.org.za> and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at <http://www.daff.gov.za>.

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