General Notices • Algemene Kennisgewings

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NOTICE 4013 OF 2026

NAMC
Promoting market access for South African agriculture

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10 July 2026

THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS/INPUTS FROM DIRECTLY AFFECTED GROUPS IN THE RED MEAT INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES RELATING TO LEVIES, RECORDS & RETURNS AND REGISTRATIONS ON CATTLE, GOATS, SHEEP AND RED MEAT IN TERMS OF THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT (ACT No. 47 OF 1996, as amended)

It is hereby made known that, in terms of Section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No.47 of 1996) (MAP Act), the Minister of Agriculture has received a request from the red meat industry for the continuation of statutory measures relating to levies, registration, the keeping of records and the rendering of returns. The Red Meat and Livestock Primary Cluster (RMLPC) is the applicant, which is comprised of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO), Red Meat Abattoirs Association (RMAA), South African Feedlot Association (SAFA) and African Farmers Association of South Africa Red Meat Chapter (AFASA RMC), applied for the continuation of the statutory measures on cattle, goats, sheep and red meat. These statutory measures will be administered by the Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) NPC.

The current statutory measures (levies, registrations and records & returns) in the red meat industry will expire on 4 November 2026. The RMLPC requests ministerial approval for the continuation of the statutory measures for a new period of four years, from 5 November 2026 to lapse on 4 November 2030. The proposed statutory measures are as follows:

- A statutory levy in terms of section 15 of the MAP Act;
- Records and returns in terms of section 18 of the MAP Act; and
- Registrations in terms of section 19 of the MAP Act.

According to the applicant, the proposed statutory measures will apply to the owners and producers of cattle, sheep and goats, feedlot operators, exporters of live animals and abattoirs. The proposed statutory levy will increase by 5% per annum from the 2025/26 base rates of R15.05 per head of cattle and R2.93 per head of small stock. The reason for the escalation is to maintain real terms purchasing power against rising input costs. The proposed new statutory levies and the projected income in the red meat industry will be as follows:

Year	**Cattle***	**Small stock***	**Projected levy income**
	(R/head)		**R**
2026/27	15.80	3.08	56 813 649
2027/28	16.59	3.23	59 654 331
2028/29	17.42	3.40	62 637 048
2029/30	18.29	3.57	65 768 900
Total			**244 873 928**

*Slaughter volumes are held conservatively flat relative to 2024/25 base to reflect the Foot and Mouth Disease environment and avoid overstating future income. The actual amount collected each year will be reported in the financial statements audited and benchmarked against the projections.

The proposed statutory levies will finance the following functions:

Animal health, public health and biosecurity: FMD response coordination, vaccine procurement support and disease management area authorisations; national animal recording system covering more than 190 livestock diseases; microbiological monitoring, residue monitoring, independent meat inspection coordination and hygiene assessment standards and veterinary public health services including health certification and export facilitation.

Inclusive growth/transformation: Continuation of the voluntary livestock farmer register; expansion of fleet and coverage for mobile cattle handling units; animal handling facility and dipping tank support in communal areas; training programmes for communal and emerging farmers, amongst others.

Market access: Continued rollout of the RMIS traceability platform across the value chain; certified South African Red Meat scheme; carcass classification services; export protocol facilitation across 17+ markets and compartmentalization support.

Competitiveness and sustainability: Stock theft prevention through national and provivial forums, branding workshops, information days, training of student police officers and prosecutors; and industry communication, dashboards and consumer work under beef and lamb SA; and animal welfare coordination.

10 % of the total levy income will finance administration, 20% will be for transformation/inclusive growth while the remaining 70% will finance generic functions such as research and development, production development, information, quality control, market access, consumer education and communication.

The MAP Act stipulates that a statutory levy may not exceed 5% of the price realised for a specific agricultural product at the first point of sale. The maximum of 5% must be based on a guideline price calculated as the average price at the first point of sale over a period not exceeding three years. The guideline price for the proposed levies, on average, was calculated to be approximately 0.09% for cattle and 0.12% for small stock for a period of 3 years. This is well within the 5% as prescribed by the MAP Act.

The purpose of the statutory measure relating to registration is to compel all relevant role-players in the red meat industry to register with the Levy Administrator. The purpose of the statutory measure relating to records and returns is to compel all relevant role-players in the red meat industry to render records and returns to the Levy Administrator. By prescribing the keeping of records with the rendering of returns on an individual basis, market information for the whole of the industry can be processed and published. These statutory measures are necessary to ensure that continuous, timeous and accurate information relating to the designated animals slaughtered is available to all role-players. Market information is deemed essential for all role-players for them to make informed decisions.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) took cognisance that the proposed continuation of statutory measures relating to levies, registrations and keeping of records and rendering of returns in the red meat industry as requested by RMLPC, is consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act). The request is currently being investigated by the NAMC, and recommendations in this regard will be made to the Minister in the near future.

Directly affected groups in the red meat industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory measures, to the NAMC on or before 31 July 2026, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to Minister in this regard.

Submissions should be in writing and addressed to:

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