

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 827

15 JULY 2016

**PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS
AMENDMENT BILL, 2015**

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 National Forests Amendment Bill, 2015 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 National Forests Amendment Bill, 2015 seeks to amend the National Forests Act, 1998, so as to provide for clear definitions of natural forests and woodlands; to provide for public trusteeship of the nation's forestry resources; to increase the promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management; to increase the measures provided for in the Act to control and remedy deforestation; to provide for appeals against decisions taken under delegated powers and duties to reinforce offences and penalties; and to provide for matter connected therewith.
4. A copy of the Bill can be found on the website 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> .