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MEDIA STATEMENT

INTEGRATION OF THE EXISTING FOOD BUSINESS OPERATOR (FBO) DATABASE WITH THE eCERTIFICATION PLATFORM

DATE: 07 DECEMBER 2021

This media release serves as notice to all producers and pack houses packing products of plant origin destined for export and sale on the local market that the existing FBO Database under the stewardship of Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance (D: FSQA) will be integrated with the eCertification Platform under the stewardship of Directorate: Inspection Services (D: IS).

The existing **FBO Database** is an online system whereby an alpha-numeric code (FBO code) is registered with the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards (APS) Act, 1990 (Act No.119 of 1990), and allocated for each producer and pack house packing products of plant origin destined for export and sale on the local market.

The purpose of registering a FBO code is to facilitate traceability and tracking process of a product one-step up and one-step down in the supply chain. Each outer container containing regulated agricultural products of plant origin destined for export and sale on the local market shall be marked with the relevant FBO code.

The **eCertification Platform** is an online electronic system created to receive, verify, process, deliver certification documentation to trading partners for sanitary, and phytosanitary compliance of South African agricultural products destined for export. The eCertification Platform includes ePhyto, Tracking Unit Register (TUR), Central Business Register (CBR), eInspect and PhytClean platforms (Farm Management and Orchard Compliance). Integration of FBO database with the eCertification Platform is essential for ensuring seamless and accurate processing of information. It will also ease the registration, access and updating of information by FBO owners, in lieu of other laws pertaining to information management.

The chief users of the integrated eCertification Platform will be the following stakeholders: The designated assignee, namely the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB), responsible for the inspection of agricultural products destined for export, D: FSQA, D: IS, Directorate: Plant Health (D: PH), registered FBOs, exporters and forwarding agents.

In order to promote the protection of personal information, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has taken all measures necessary ensuring that the integration of the existing FBO Database with the eCertification Platform complies with the provisions of the APS Act and the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No.4 of 2013) (POPIA). Each user will be given limited rights on the system.



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Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvuukiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba NekuTufukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha
nokuThuthukiswa kweeNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae Lefapha la
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle