

NOTICE 410 OF 2013**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF)****DRAFT PLANT IMPROVEMENT BILL****INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby invite all interested institutions, organizations and individuals to submit written comments on the draft Plant Improvement Bill.

Some of the key amendments include:

- Updating, correcting and addition of definitions
- Providing for registers for registration of types of business and premises as well as a register for varieties and a journal for publication of varietal listing matters
- Amending appeals and objections against decisions of the Registrar or submitted applications by providing for objection to an application for or approval of a variety for national listing
- Empowering the Minister to establish a Plant Improvement Advisory Committee to advise the Registrar on matters related to plant improvement, varieties and schemes
- Providing for seed harmonization initiatives in the SADC Region
- Providing guidance on establishment of certification schemes as well as providing for establishment of other schemes such as community production schemes
- Amending the structure of the legislation by consolidating related sections into relevant chapters

Copies of the document may be obtained from the office of the Registrar of Plant Improvement, JoanS@daff.gov.za and from the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za)

Comments must be submitted in writing **within 30 days** from date of publication of this notice to:

The Registrar of Plant Improvement, Directorate Plant Production, DAFF, Private Bag X250, PRETORIA 0001

or

Physical address: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Room 358 Harvest House, 30 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, PRETORIA

E-mail: JoanS@daff.gov.za

Fax: 012 319 6372