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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Agbiz response to the extension of suspension of South Africa's agricultural products from AGOA by the USA Administration**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016, US President Barack Obama announced the intention of the US to suspend duty free quota free agricultural exports from South Africa under AGOA effective on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016. This proclamation was an extension of the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 deadline that had been announced 60 days earlier on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

While the recent announcement by President Obama was received with much confusion, Agbiz learnt through engagements with the USDA and *the dti*, that the 15<sup>th</sup> March suspension would be lifted once US poultry exports are received in the South African market. This would expectedly be within the next 4 to 5 weeks. The hope is that South Africa's exports to the USA under AGOA will remain uninterrupted, with South Africa retaining its duty free quota free market access.

As the AGOA negotiations come to conclusion, Agbiz would like to express its sincere gratitude to *the dti* and DAFF, for their tireless efforts throughout the negotiation process. We thank Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, and Ambassador Faizel Ismail for engaging us and for their willingness to consider private sector concerns. The contribution of SAPA is also acknowledged.

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