

19 October 2016

## **ATTENTION: NOTICE TO AGBIZ MEMBERS REGARDING THE TRANSITION FROM TDCA TO EPA**

In the run up to the expiration of the “Trade Chapter” of the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA), there have been three important notices and these include:

- A notice circulated by Agbiz to members on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016,
- A media release by government on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016,
- A Government Gazette on Customs Implementation Economic Partnership Agreement released by the South African Revenue Service (SARS) on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The Agbiz notice on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 served to inform members that the EU had formally indicated that it will now be provisionally implement the SADC-EU EPA on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016, new market for agricultural products was only due for the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.

The media release from government on the 6<sup>th</sup> October confirmed this, and further noted that the Agreement will be administered by SARS once the legislation has been approved and published in the Government Gazette.

The Government Gazette notice giving effect to the EPA, through the Customs and Excise Act, was published on the 12<sup>th</sup> October. The notice implements the revised Rules of Origin, describes the EUR.1 procedure and provides for the enabling of the new market access quotas.

The administrative procedures for the quota allocations will however still need to be given effect by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) through a separate Government Gazette notice. As such, given that the Agreement has already taken effect as from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the regulations will be applied on a retrospective basis.

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