



INVITATION TO PUBLIC HEARINGS & CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON BILLS

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development & Land Administration; Economic Development, Environment & Tourism invites members of the public and any affected or interested stakeholders to attend the public hearings and to submit written comments on the following bills:

MARINE LIVING RESOURCES AMENDMENT BILL [B30B – 2013]

seeks to amend the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998, so as to insert, amend or delete certain definitions; to amplify the objectives and principles provided for in that Act; to make provision for measures relating to small-scale fishing and for the powers and duties of the Minister in this regard; to effect technical amendments; to provide for matters connected therewith.

The purpose of the Marine Living Resources Amendment Bill, 2013, is to provide a legal framework for the implementation of the Policy for the Small-Scale Fisheries Sector (the Policy) in South Africa, published as Government Notice 474 in Government Gazette No. 35455 on 20 June 2012, and to transform the inequalities of the past fisheries system in the measures it introduces.

LEGAL METROLOGY BILL [B34B-2013]

seeks to: Promote fair trade and to protect public health and safety and the Environment; To provide for the implementation of a regulatory and compliance system for legal metrology by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) and for the administration and maintenance of legal metrology technical regulations; To provide for market surveillance by the NRCS in order to ensure compliance with legal metrology technical regulations. The bill seeks to protect consumers against short measure or an inaccurate measurement, to level the playing field for industry and support the competitiveness of local industry.

Legal Metrology concerns measurements that directly affect consumers and ensures the quality and credibility of measurements that are used directly in regulation and in areas of trade. It deals with risks of misuse of measuring instruments, of tampering and of accidental influences on a measuring instrument and deals with the traceability of measurements, thus providing an appropriate level of credibility of measurement results in the regulatory domain. In a broader sense, legal metrology covers the protection of society in areas of health, safety and the environment, thus concerning the interaction between regulation and measurements. The current Trade Metrology Act, 1993 (Act No. 77 of 1973), is outdated and does not provide for the regulation of legal metrology measurements.

The Portfolio Committee will conduct public hearings on the Bills as follows:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Friday, 07 February 2014	Ehlanzeni district: Mbombela Local Municipality MATSULU COMMUNITY HALL	09:00 - 13:00
	Gert Sibande district: Msukaligwa Local Municipality WESSELTON COMMUNITY HALL, ERMELO	
	Nkangala district: Thembisile Hani Local Municipality VEZUBUHLE HALL	

Written submissions on the Bill can be sent to Ms. Marilyn Varda on fax: (013) 766 1458; e-mail: marilyn@mpuleg.gov.za; or per hand to Building 1, Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature (Upper Ground Floor), Government Complex, Riverside Park, Nelspruit, 1200 on or before **THURSDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2014**. The bill can be obtained from our website at www.mpuleg.gov.za. Enquiries: (013) 766 1402/ 079 378 8068.