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MEDIA STATEMENT

09 January 2024

Lifting of the ban on avocado exports from South Africa to Japan

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is pleased to announce that the ban on export of Hass avocados from South Africa to Japan has been lifted effective from 30 November 2023. The DALRRD and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) have, to this effect, approved a workplan which aims at ensuring the proper implementation of the export protocols of Hass avocados from South Africa to Japan. This workplan clarifies related operations and procedures to be followed to export avocados to Japan.

South Africa is one of the world's biggest producers of avocados and ranks amongst the top exporters of this important fruit. Most exports are by sea in refrigerated containers under controlled atmosphere (CA). The estimated three-year average annual production in South Africa is 139 400 tons, of which 45% is exported fresh, mainly to Europe including the United Kingdom. The remainder of the crop is consumed domestically and approximately 10% is processed. Although the South African industry is export orientated, the South African market also plays a significant role with demand having grown considerably over the past few years. The industry also plays an important role in terms of job creation as it employs approximately 23 000 casual labourers during peak periods.

To ensure an effective and efficient export programme, DALRRD will, to this effect, approve and register all places of production and packing houses and designate all facilities in accordance with the approved work plan. The DALRRD will also coordinate, perform and supervise all the



activities specified in the approved workplan and will immediately report and engage with MAFF on challenges emanating from registered places of production, packing houses and designated disinfestation facilities.

Growers of registered orchards must implement good agricultural practices that include orchard sanitation and an effective integrated pest management system. This will ensure that avocados are produced in areas free from quarantine pests of concern to South Africa.

For technical enquiries, contact, Mr Mpho Sekgala, Tel: 012 319 6295 or 083 962 5807; e-mail: MphoS@Dalrrd.gov.za

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Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

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