

**NOTICE 869 OF 2008****DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM****INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAWS AMENDMENT BILL**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism intends to introduce the National Environment Laws Amendment Bill, 2008, in the National Assembly shortly. The long title are hereby published in accordance with Rule 241(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

The National Environment Laws Amendment Bill, 2008, proposes:

To provide for in the National Environment Management Act, 1998 and in specific environmental management Acts for the jurisdiction of the magistrate's court in the instances where the maximum fines have been increased and are higher than that of the usual jurisdiction of these courts; to insert certain definitions; to provide for the establishment of fora or advisory committees; to provide for a directive to a person who has admitted to committing an offence; to allow for the Minister or the MEC to issue a directive in the event that a person admitted to an offence; to make provision or increased powers of the courts; to remove the requirement that Environmental Management Inspectors must carry the notices of designation and the right to conduct routine inspections and to search vehicles; to remove the need in the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 to

publish directives in the *Gazette*; to provide for in the National Environment Management Act: Air Quality Act, 2004 for a processing fee to review a licence and to include directors or senior managers in a juristic person for the criteria for a fit and proper person; to provide for in the National Environment Management Act: Biodiversity Act, 2000 for general surveillance monitoring; further considerations for a biodiversity management plan; that an environment impact assessment must be obtained when genetically modified organisms are involved; to introduce a notification requirements in the discovery phase of a bioprospecting project; to take into consideration knowledge of specific individuals when issuing specific bioprospecting permits; to allow the Director-General or a trustee to manage the Bioprospecting Fund; to allow for the renewal or amendment of a permit; to amend the regulations to allow for hunting; and to effect certain textual alterations.

Copies of the Bill can be obtained from:

1. The Government Printer – Pretoria

2. Adv Vicky Beukes

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315 Pretorius Street

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