Update from the Departments of Health; Trade and Industry and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Progress on Action plan towards Strengthening Food Inspection Services and labelling in South Africa

CONFIDENTIAL
Presentation Outline

- Progress on the Proposal by the Departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

- Updates:
  - South African Local Government Association’s Summit;
  - National Consumer Commission; and
  - National Regulator For Compulsory Specifications

- Conclusion
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

High level decision to ensure the strengthening of Food Safety Controls

- The proposed action plan was presented to the Ministers on the 12th of August 2013;
- The Ministers gave an in principle approval of the proposed Action Plan;
- Cabinet Memo prepared for presentation by the Ministers to Cabinet;
- The Cabinet Memo seeks to request approval for the creation of (1) a Ministerial Cluster on Food Security and Food Safety and (2) the Inter-Departmental Food Safety Coordinating Committee as precursors to the establishment of a Food Safety Agency; and
- The Joint Portfolio Committee shall be updated as soon as Cabinet makes a final pronouncement on the matter.
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

Establishment of Inter-Departmental Food Safety Coordinating Committee (IDFSCC)

- The Terms of Reference have been drafted and will be forwarded to the Ministerial Cluster Chair to be appointed by Cabinet;
- The IDFSCC to be the interim coordinating mechanism (Structure) – departments to second or appoint senior officials to the IDFSCC;
- IDFSCC to drive the full review of existing legislation and policy interventions - DAFF to take leadership, supported by the dti and DoH;
- IDFSCC to harmonise inspections especially incorporating municipal level (*legal opinion of the same under review*); and
- IDFSCC to link with Consumer Goods Association of South Africa to drive private sector compliance initiatives.
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

Lack of capacity to conduct animal species quantitative analysis

- Discussions have been ongoing since the European Horse Meat issue and publication of research results by the South African academics;
- The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) biotechnology platform has submitted a project on species identification and quantification in the South African Meat Industry; and
- The 1st phase that will result in the Departments establishing acceptable levels of contamination versus adulteration and credible laboratory quality management systems will last 12 months at a cost of R6m.
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

Interdepartmental ongoing collaboration

- A pilot training workshop for informal traders and Health and Environmental Officers in the Western Cape;
- This initiative is done in conjunction with Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the municipality;
- The initial notice on Meat Labelling (Processed and packaged Meat products, Dried and packaged) was issued in March by the dti, the public comments were received until the end of June. A consolidation of the comments has been finalised; and
- Coordination amongst departments within the ports of entry and borderline environment is currently being strengthened within the Border Control Operational Coordinating Committee and the Inter-Agency Clearing Forum.
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

Amend import permits for the declaration of final destination and usage of imported material to strengthen traceability of species commonly used for adulteration

- DAFF has amended its permit system. Importation of meat from Equine and Kangaroo will now have a clause that reads:

“For consignments found fit for human consumption at the port of entry, the arrival of the consignment within South Africa must be reported to the Health Inspector at the place(s) of final destination, immediately and may not be landed without his or her authorization. A copy of the original import permit and release document must be handed in at the office of final destination”; and

- In addition the Inspection personnel, including at the ports of entry will notify the municipality Health Inspector of destination upon entry of such consignment in the country.
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

Finalise independent meat inspection proposal

- The final proposal to be tabled by MINTECH to MINMEC for a decision;
- The Terms of Reference for assignees have been drafted and consultation is ongoing and will be concluded by the end of September 2013; and
- The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been requested to consult the Minister of Labour on sectoral salary determination for Meat Inspectors.
Progress on Proposal by the government departments in addressing items identified in the Action Plan

- Realignment and more streamlining of related activities/ Strengthening of internal coordination within departments for efficient services delivery
  - The drafting of Norms & Standards for Food Control to ensure better coordination and consistent application of food legislation relating to monitoring and enforcement has commenced;
  - DoH, DAFF and NRCS have continued to engage with several international food standards setting bodies to align the current legislation with international standards to facilitate trade and ensure food safety; and
  - DoH continuously responds and deals with notifications of food safety alerts both nationally and internationally to manage any potential risk.
KEY ISSUES: SALGA MHS SUMMIT-June 2013

DOH, in partnership with the National Treasury, SALGA, SAEIH, and HPCSA

- Must finalise urgently, norms and standards based on a costing study for Municipal Health Services;
- Align national Municipal Health Services benchmarks and guidelines to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the National Health Insurance (NHI);
- Municipalities must include Municipal Health Services in their IDPs and in municipal performance management of Executive Managers;
KEY ISSUES: SALGA MHS SUMMIT-June 2013

- National Treasury must establish a conditional grant dedicated to Municipal Health Services backlogs in addition to the local government equitable share formula allocation and its review;
- The National Treasury must ring-fence MHS funds and not link these funds with other services;
- These resolutions (from the Summit) were presented to the SALGA NEC meeting held on the 5th of August 2013; and
- The Resolutions were adopted by the NEC and are now to be distributed to all stakeholders.
The NCC UPDATE:

Update on the investigation

- The National Consumer Commission (NCC) is in the process of concluding its investigation into the alleged mislabelling of particular meat products;
- In conducting the investigation, the NCC, engaged with various stakeholders namely; importers, manufacturers, other suppliers, academics and relevant government departments; and
- It is anticipated that the report will be presented to the Minister of Trade and Industry early October 2013.
The NRCS UPDATE:

Actions on Processed Meat

- Risk assessment was conducted during the first full stakeholder meeting - August 2013;

- First draft completed and second Stakeholder meeting for impact assessment - October 2013 (planned date); and

- Final stakeholder meeting and final draft regulation - February 2014 (planned date).
Conclusion

- The proposed action plan is work in progress; and
- More consultations are planned for specific intervention areas mentioned in the currently proposed action plan.

THANK YOU!!