

BEEKEEPING LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA



DALRRD: DIRECTORATE PLANT HEALTH
PRESENTER: CHARLES NENGOVHELA
DATE: 26 MARCH 2025



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Legislation

- Beekeeping in South Africa is currently regulated under the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No.36 of 1983) and Control Measures relating to honey-bees.
- The purpose of this Act is to provide for measures by which agricultural pests may be prevented and combated and for matters connected therewith.
- The Agricultural Pests Act also provides for:
 - ✓ Import control of honey and any other bee products (import permit)
 - ✓ National control of bee disease (prohibit movement of bees)



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Provisions of the Control Measures: Regulations R. 858 as amended...

African bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*)



www.shutterstock.com · 1919079434

Cape bees (*Apis mellifera capensis*)



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

SA BEE REGULATION MAP



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Provisions of the control measures : Government Notice R.858 Cont...

- Every beekeeper shall register with the DALRRD anytime of the year and validity of the registration will be 24 months from the date of registration
 - ✓ DALRRD; DIS is currently responsible for registration
 - ✓ Forms are obtainable from the DALRRD and SABIO's website
 - ✓ Currently no fees are payable when you register until further notice



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Provisions of the control measures : Government Notice R.858 Cont...

- Marking of beehives
- Record keeping by beekeepers
- Inspection of colonies by beekeepers
- ❖ Notify DALRRD
- ❖ Executive officer may issues order
- Destruction of infected colonies
- Prohibition of removal of infected colonies



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Why registration?

- To manage the control of American Foul Brood (AFB) and Capensis problem
- Number of beekeepers per province/SA,
- Number of beehives or colony per province,
- Type of the business or operation.
- Research purposes.

This will assist DALRRD when conducting inspection, Auditing etc. to ensure compliance



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Other legislation affecting beekeeping

- Agricultural Product Standards Act (grading, packing and marking of honey products)
- Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act (regulate the labelling and marketing of food)
- Act 36 of 1947 (appropriate use of pesticides for the protection of bees)



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Offences and Penalties

- Failure to comply with the provision of the Control Measures is an illegal (offence) in terms of this law and offenders may be prosecuted.



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

DALRRD's Role in Beekeeping Industry

- Develop, review and promulgate legislation and regulations
- Conduct surveillance of pests and diseases
- Implement and enforce relevant legislation and policies to ensures compliances
- Develop and distribute promotional and awareness materials to stakeholders
- Participate in various beekeeping forums and provide advisory services



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Way forward

- Registration by all beekeepers
- Regular visits by DALRRD inspectors
- Compliance by all beekeepers
- Awareness and education on bee legislation



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

AFRICAN REGIONAL APIMONDIA SYMPOSIUM 2023, DURBAN ICC



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Consultative activities (Northern Cape)



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Consultative activities (Limpopo province)



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STAY
SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

THE END

Mr Charles Nengovhela

Scientist Production

Tell: 012 319 6116

Email: CharlesN@dalrrd.gov.za

**Division: Policies Norms and Standard
DALRRD, Directorate Plant Health**



**agriculture, land reform
& rural development**

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS