

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 04 NOVEMBER 2025**

**MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT**

Mr B Durham (Deputy Chairperson)  
 Dr A Sigobodhla  
 Ms T Ndukwana  
 Dr M Jugmohan-Naidu  
 Mr B Kgope  
 Ms T Masilela

Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI)  
 Department of Health (DoH)  
 Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**)  
 Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI)  
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)  
 Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)

**APOLOGIES**

Prof. G Bouwer  
 Ms P Campbell  
 Dr M Matlala

Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997  
 Department of Health (DoH)  
 Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms A Madzivhandila  
 Ms F Mpikani  
 Ms T Mogapi  
 Mr S Mokhothu  
 Ms B Mahlangu  
 Ms R Ngoepe  
 Ms N.L. Mkhonza

Department of Health (DoH)  
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)  
 Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)  
 Department of Agriculture (DoA)  
 Department of Agriculture (DoA)  
 Department of Agriculture (DoA)  
 Department of Agriculture (DoA)

<b>NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>RESOLUTION</b>	<b>FOR ATTENTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>OPENING AND WELCOME</b>	The EC Deputy Chairperson welcomed those present at the EC meeting.	EC Deputy Chairperson
<b>2.</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES</b>	The meeting was held virtually on MS Teams and the OoR noted the attendance and apologies.	EC Deputy Chairperson
<b>3.</b>	<b>ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	The agenda was adopted with no additions.	All
<b>4.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 09 SEPTEMBER 2025</b>	The record of proceedings of 09 September 2025 was approved with no amendments.	All
<b>5.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS</b>		
5.1	Comments: Guideline for submission of time extension requests	(i) The EC deliberated on the stakeholders' comments on the draft amended guideline for submission of time extension requests and recommended further amendment to the guideline document. (ii) The EC concluded that the OoR will incorporate EC's recommendation in the amended guideline document and circulate to EC for consideration at the March 2026 meeting.	EC  EC/OoR
5.2	Feedback on AC workshop on NGTs	(i) The EC noted that an AC workshop was held in October 2025, and the	EC

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		<p>report is still being drafted and will be circulated in due course for AC's consideration. The EC concluded that the agenda item will be discussed further at the next EC meeting.</p>	EC
5.3	Advanced Therapeutic Products (ATPs) inclusion/exclusion from GMO Act	<p>(ii) The EC noted that at the September 2025 meeting the EC had considered a presentation on the whitepaper for a sustainable regulatory framework for advanced therapeutic products by the National BloodSA working group. (i) The EC considered human gene therapy within the scope of GMO Act and concluded that further engagements are required on the matter.</p>	EC
<b>6.</b>	<b>Compliance/Non-compliance</b>		
6.1	Inspections	<p>(i) The OoR informed the EC that twenty planting, six harvest and two destruction inspections were conducted, and inspection reports were received and assessed. (ii) The EC noted the feedback.</p>	OoR EC
6.2	Annual reports	<p>(i) The OoR informed the EC that twenty-three annual reports for trial releases, general releases and one notification were received and assessed. (ii) The EC noted the feedback.</p>	OoR EC
6.3	Response: Bayer's request for inclusion of deep burial method in trial release permit conditions	<p>(i) The EC considered Bayer's additional information and concluded that deep burial as a destruction method for harvested seeds must be added as a permit condition for maize and soybean trial releases. (ii) The EC noted the feedback.</p>	EC EC
6.4	Syngenta's request: post-trial planting season 2025/26	<p>(i) The EC considered Syngenta's request to use two trial sites for maize plantings in the 2025/26 season and did not approve the request.</p>	EC
6.5	Request for additional information: Bayer's annual report 2022/23 for MON88913 cotton event and MON 89034 and MON 89034 x NK603 maize events	<p>(i) The EC noted that further review of the additional information is still being conducted.</p>	EC
6.6	Bayer's request for amendment of Condition 1 for MON87701 x MON89788 soybean general release permit [Permit Number 39.4(5/21/213)]	<p>(i) The EC noted that the additional information from the applicant was requested and is still outstanding.</p>	EC
<b>7.</b>	<b>APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC (REGISTRAR)</b>		

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<b>Request for additional trial sites</b>			
7.1	Bayer's request for additional trial sites for an approved trial release MON 87427 x MON 95379 x MIR162 maize	(i)	The EC's decision on Bayer's request for additional trial sites for an approved trial release MON 87427 x MON 95379 x MIR162 maize is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.
7.2	Bayer's request for additional trial sites for an approved trial release MON 87427 x MON 95379 x MIR162 x NK603 maize	(i)	The EC's decision on Bayer's request for additional trial sites for an approved trial release MON 87427 x MON 95379 x MIR162 x NK603 maize is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.
<b>Commodity clearance</b>			
7.3	Syngenta - 25/270: Commodity clearance of 3272 x BT11 x MIR162 x MZIR098 x DP4114 x NK603 maize	(i)	The EC's decision on Syngenta - 25/270: Commodity clearance application of 3272 x BT11 x MIR162 x MZIR098 x DP4114 x NK603 maize is pending further review.
7.4	Syngenta - 25/271 Commodity clearance of DAS44406-6 x FG72 soybean	(i)	The EC's decision on Syngenta - 25/270: Commodity clearance application of DAS44406-6 x FG72 soybean is pending further review.
<b>Trial release and import and/or export</b>			
7.5	Corteva - 25/334: Import and trial release of DP-73496 Canola	(i)	The EC's decision on Corteva - 25/334: Import and trial release application of DP-73496 Canola is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.
<b>General release</b>			
7.6	Intervet – 24/007: General release of Innovax ND-H5 vaccine	(i)	The EC's decision on Intervet – 24/007: General release application of Innovax ND-H5 vaccine is pending further review.
<b>Contained use and import and/or export</b>			
			None
<b>Time extensions, amendments to (existing) permits, imports and exports</b>			
			None
<b>8. APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY EC DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD</b>			
<b>Trial release and import and/or export</b>			
8.1	Applicants' response: Corteva - 25/341: Trial release of TC1507 x NK603 maize	(i)	The EC approved Corteva - 25/341: Trial release application of TC1507 x NK603 maize.

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<b>General release</b>				EC
8.2	Applicants' response: Corteva - 25/302: General release of TC1507 x MIR162 x NK603 maize	(i)	The EC's decision on Corteva - 25/302: General release application of TC1507 x MIR162 x NK603 maize is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.	EC
	<b>Commodity clearance</b>			
8.3	Applicants' response: BASF - 25/010: Commodity clearance of GMB151 x DAS44406-6 soybean	(i)	The EC's decision on BASF - 25/10: Commodity clearance application of G B151 x DAS44406-6 soybean is pending further review.	EC
<b>9</b>	<b>Standing matters</b>			
9.1	Regulatory and policy developments (All)	None		All
9.2	Cartagena Protocol (E )	(i)	<p>The EC noted that following CPB's meetings and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27) was held from 20 to 24 October 2025 in Panama and eleven agenda items were considered, one of which was risk assessment and management.</li> <li>A Capacity building workshop on synthetic biology is held from 03 to 07 November 2025 in Germany.</li> <li>An online forum on the network of laboratories for detection and identification of MOs will be held from 24 November to 5 December 2025.</li> <li>The COP-MOP 12 will be held in October 2026 in Armenia.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) The EC further noted the following national activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder consultation was held on integrating biosafety target 17 into the national biodiversity strategies action plan.</li> <li>A stakeholder consultation on the fifth national report on the implementation of the PB will be held on 24 November 2025.</li> </ul>	EC
9.3	Expertise/demographics/succession plan t AC (EC)	(i)	The EC noted that the scheduling of a session to discuss the development of an outline for a draft capacity building plan is on hold until further notice.	EC
9.4	Appointment/reappointment of AC members (OoR)	None		
9.5	Acting Registrar (OoR)	None		
<b>10.</b>	<b>General</b>	None		

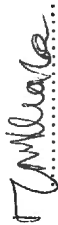
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<b>11.</b>	Date of the next meeting	(i)	The EC noted that the next EC meeting is scheduled for 03 March 2026.	All
<b>12.</b>	Closure	(i)	The meeting was concluded at 12:14 pm.	All

Approved by Deputy Chairperson  
Mr B Durham

  
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 Signature

Approved by Registrar  
Ms NL Mkhonza

  
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 Signature