

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** The Presidency Signs Proclamation to Transfer the  
Agricultural Inspection Functions to the Border Management Agency

**Country:** South Africa - Republic of

**Post:** Pretoria

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

South Africa has announced plans to transfer numerous governmental functions including agricultural inspections to the new Border Management Agency which currently falls under Home Affairs. Although it is unclear how or when this transfer will take place, Post contacts have indicated that frontline agricultural inspectors are expected to be officially transferred to the new agency, while the development of inspection policy and standards will remain with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

## Background

On August 31, the Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Health, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, signed a proclamation that authorizes the transfer of administration and powers or function from certain cabinet members to others. Notably, The Border Management Authority will assume responsibility for food safety, biosecurity, and phytosanitary controls alongside frontline border law enforcement functions related to, inter alia, port health; immigration control; access control; land border infrastructure development and maintenance; and border information and risk management. Previously, South African National Assembly passed the Border Management Authority (BMA) Bill on July 27, 2018 to establish a state entity that will oversee all aspects pertaining to the management of the 72 ports of entry in South Africa (see [GAIN: South Africa to Finalize Establishing BMA 2018](#))

## Impact

According to Post contacts, the transfer of the DALRRD functions to BMA will involve the assignment of inspection frontline services to the new agency while the policy aspect of inspection operations will remain with DALRRD. Furthermore, all the relevant technical experts that are currently at DALRRD are expected to be officially transferred to BMA and moved to the ports of entry to ensure that operations continue smoothly. Since the announcement of the proclamation is still in the early stages, it is not yet clear how the transfer will impact operations or how they will be implemented.

All DALRRD units and agency legislation currently involved in aspects of border control and management are officially transferred to the Department of Home Affairs and they will fall under the Border Management Authority. The legislation includes the Agricultural Pests Act of 183, Agricultural Product Standards Act of 1990, Animal Diseases Act of 198, Animal Health Act of 2002, Animal Improvement Act of 1998, Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act of 1947, Genetically Modified Organisms Act of 1997, Liquor Products Act of 1989, Meat Safety Act of 2000, Perishable Products Export Control Act of 1983, Plant Improvement Act of 1978, Foodstuff, Cosmetics & Disinfectants Act of 1972. According to the plans, BMA will remain under the Department of Home Affairs until 2023, at which point it will become independent. A timeline for the transfer of personnel and operationalizing the inspection functions under the new agency has yet to be released.

**Attachments:**

[Section 97 proclamation - Transfer of functions - BMA Act,2020 \(1\).pdf](#)