
GAZETTE WATCH

Regulatory Highlights

Government Gazette, 29 September – 7 October 2026

Lee's Compliance, in association with The Legal Team

Every week, Lee's Compliance and The Legal Team monitor the Government Gazette so you don't have to. Here are the snippets that matter most from this week's 37 notices. Our subscribers receive the full briefing, with the legal basis, practical implications and recommended actions for every notice.



IN THIS EDITION

This edition included a detailed guide and an expanded analysis with practical compliance tools:

- **Consumer Protection Act:** what direct marketers must do now the National Opt-Out Registry is operational, including registration, monthly database cleansing, how the CPA and POPIA fit together, and an action checklist.
- **Stock Theft Amendment Bill:** a provision-by-provision walk-through of the new stock registers, sale documents, removal certificates, inspection powers and penalties.



AGRICULTURE

Compulsory tagging and registration for livestock

Draft regulations would require owners to tag animals with approved, colour-coded ear tags, register themselves and their animals on a central database, keep on-farm records and register every change of ownership within seven days. Contraventions could carry up to two years' imprisonment.

Comments close 4 January 2027.

Stock Theft Act to be modernised

The draft Stock Theft Amendment Bill would require livestock owners to keep a stock register and count their animals every 14 days, use more detailed sale documents and removal certificates, and keep records for longer. Police would get routine inspection powers, and penalties would rise to up to 15 years' imprisonment. **Comments close 2 November 2026.**

How we can help: we can help you work out what the new tagging and record-keeping rules will mean for your operation, and prepare comments on both drafts.



COMPETITION

Right to repair moves beyond motor vehicles

The Competition Commission has published guidance on how it will deal with manufacturers and suppliers that restrict who can repair, service or maintain technology products. Suppliers should review their warranty terms, access to parts and tools, and dealer agreements against the Guideline.

How we can help: we can review your warranty, aftermarket and dealer arrangements for competition-law risk.



CONSUMER PROTECTION

The National Opt-Out Registry is live

Every direct marketer must register on the Registry before marketing, renew each year, and cleanse its marketing list every month at 12 cents per blocked consumer. Once a consumer registers a block, earlier consent falls away. The NCC's draft guidelines are likely to be its checklist when it investigates complaints about unwanted calls, SMSs and emails. **Comments close 17 October 2026, so submit by Friday 16 October.**

How we can help: we can review your direct marketing and consent processes against the CPA and POPIA, and help you prepare comments before the deadline.



EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Private college deregistered over a missed annual report

St Augustine College of Southern Africa has lost its registration as a private higher education institution because it did not file its 2025 annual report. Employers verifying qualifications should note the cancellation date, and other private institutions should treat annual reports as a hard deadline. Separately, the QCTO is inviting comments on eight new occupational qualifications, including paralegal supervisor and legal interpreter, by 26 October 2026.



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

ICASA restarts its affordability inquiry

ICASA has restarted its inquiry into the affordability of voice and data services with a new timetable, and has dropped its separate inquiry into streaming and messaging apps. Questionnaire comments close 14 October 2026. USAASA is also consulting on universal service and on connectivity subsidies for needy persons until 30 October 2026.



GOVERNANCE

Central Register regulations withdrawn

The DPSA has withdrawn the Public Administration Management Regulations for the Central Register that it published in July, and says it will re-publish them later. Treat the July regulations as not in force and watch for a new version, which may come with changes and a new comment period.

How we can help: we keep your legal register up to date as regulations are withdrawn, amended and re-published.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Lifesaving World Championships to become a protected event

The championships in Nelson Mandela Bay, from 25 November to 13 December 2026, are to be declared a protected event. Businesses not authorised by the organisers would not be able to use the event or its marks to promote themselves, so marketing teams should check their planned November and December campaigns. **Comments close 17 October 2026, so submit by Friday 16 October.**



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

No duty increase on office paper; sector-wide investigation instead

Mondi's request for higher import duties on uncoated paper and paperboard has been turned down, so duty rates stay the same. The Minister has instead asked ITAC to investigate the whole pulp and paper sector, which could lead to tariff, rebate or trade-remedy proposals across paper, packaging and tissue.



JUSTICE AND POLICING

Criminal justice commission given more time

The President has extended the timetable of the judicial commission investigating criminality, political interference and corruption in the criminal justice system. Its final report is now due on 25 January 2027. Organisations named in evidence should keep preserving relevant records.



LABOUR

COIDA pensions up 4.1%, backdated to 1 April

Injured workers and dependants receiving COIDA pensions get a 4.1% increase, and new minimum and maximum compensation amounts apply to accidents and diseases from 1 April 2026. Employers and claims administrators handling claims from that date must use the new limits.

Three trade unions deregistered

Employers should stop subscription deductions for the three cancelled unions and treat related organisational rights and recognition agreements as having fallen away. Two more unions face deregistration unless they show cause. **Representations close 1 December 2026.**

How we can help: we can check your payroll, union arrangements and COIDA processes against the latest changes.



SECOND-HAND GOODS

Tighter rules for dealers, pawnbrokers and scrap metal traders

A draft Bill would bring certain auctioneers within the Second-Hand Goods Act, require dealers to keep personal information in line with POPIA, regulate moving goods between premises, and require vehicle microdot information to be recorded. Jewellers would face stricter controls on buying precious metals. **Comments close 2 November 2026.**

How we can help: we can assess the record-keeping and POPIA impact on your business and help you comment.



TAX AND FINANCE

Capitec Bank Holdings is now Capitec Limited

The Prudential Authority has confirmed the change of name, so update your counterparty and contract records. Separately, JSE Clear has proposed amendments to its rules, with comments due by 16 October 2026.



TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Seven Northern Cape roads become national roads

About 336 km of provincial roads, including the R31 from Askham to Santoy and the road to the Onseepkans border post, now fall under SANRAL. Landowners planning new accesses, structures or signage along these routes need SANRAL's approval rather than the province's.



Other highlights

This edition also covered the continued R35-a-ton levy on wheat, barley and oats, the Competition Tribunal's approval of Coca-Cola HBC's acquisition of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa and three other mergers, the October fuel price schedules, the re-opened comment period on the Indigenous Knowledge regulations, accreditation applications by two consumer protection groups, the latest national revenue and spending figures, PanSALB's language reports, and new air service and road carrier licence applications.



Key dates to diarise

- **14 October:** comments on ICASA's affordability inquiry questionnaire
- **16 October:** comments on the JSE Clear rule amendments
- **17 October (submit by 16 October):** comments on the NCC Opt-Out Registry Guidelines and the Lifesaving World Championships protected-event declaration
- **23 October:** SARS filing deadline for non-provisional individual taxpayers
- **26 October:** comments on the eight QCTO occupational qualifications
- **30 October:** comments on both USAASA discussion documents and the Indigenous Knowledge Regulations
- **2 November:** comments on the Second-Hand Goods and Stock Theft Amendment Bills, and on the NCC labelling, pricing and receipts guidelines
- **1 December:** representations on the proposed deregistration of two trade unions
- **4 January 2027:** comments on the draft animal identification regulations

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