GAZETTE WATCH

Regulatory Highlights

Government Gazette, 22 – 30 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 19 items, including two SARS tariff amendments of 30 October picked up in our currency check. Our subscribers receive the full briefing, with the legal basis, practical implications and recommended actions for every notice.



IN THIS EDITION

This edition included four expanded analyses with practical compliance tools:

- **New CCMA Rules:** every main change in one table, from WhatsApp notices and online filing to AI disclosure at pre-arbitration conferences and dismissal for non-attendance.
- **Biometric SIM verification:** who must do what under ICASA's draft Numbering Plan amendments, the penalty tier for each duty, and an action plan for operators and businesses holding SIMs.
- **Environmental administrative penalties:** how fixed penalties and variable penalties of up to R50 million would work, step by step, and what to do now.
- **Minority shareholder protections:** a two-column checklist of the veto rights that are likely to give a minority investor control, and those that typically do not.



AGRICULTURE

A four-year renewal of the meat and poultry import levy

The Association of Meat Importers and Exporters (AMIE) wants the statutory levy, records and registration rules for imported meat and poultry, including mechanically deboned meat, to continue from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2031. The levy would stay at 1.5 cents per kilogram, with no escalation, and must be paid before an import permit is issued. Comments to the NAMC close 13 November 2026.

How we can help: *we can check your levy, registration and record-keeping obligations and help you prepare comments.*

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Biometric checks for every SIM, and a five-number cap

ICASA's draft Numbering Plan amendments would require mobile operators to check every subscriber's fingerprints or face against Home Affairs records on activation, re-activation and every SIM swap, to verify their existing customers within two years, and to limit individuals to five mobile numbers per operator. Companies are exempt from the cap. The core duties carry fines of up to R4 million per contravention. Plan to comment by 27 November 2026, and confirm the date with ICASA.

A film banned for hate speech

The Film and Publication Board has refused classification for the film “Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America”. Knowingly distributing, broadcasting or advertising it carries a fine of up to R500 000, up to five years' imprisonment, or both, so platforms should add it to their takedown lists.

How we can help: *we can run a POPIA impact assessment for biometric processing, and help businesses move SIMs held in employees' names to the company.*

COMPETITION

When minority vetoes become control

The Competition Commission's final Guidelines on Minority Shareholder Protections, in effect from 23 October 2026, say that vetoes over the business plan, the budget, the appointment of the CEO or CFO, the dismissal of executives, or the firm competing with the minority shareholder are likely to give that shareholder control. If the merger thresholds are met, the deal must then be notified. Rights that only protect the investment, such as approving disposals, dividend policy or MOI amendments, typically do not.

How we can help: *we can screen shareholder agreements and MOIs in private equity, BEE and joint venture deals against the Guidelines.*



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental fines of up to R50 million, without going to court

A draft Bill would let environmental inspectors impose fixed penalties for routine permit breaches and variable penalties of up to R50 million per contravention, proved on a balance of probabilities. Directors and public sector managers could be personally liable unless they took all reasonable steps, and the section 24G fine of up to R10 million would be replaced. Comments close 22 December 2026.

A permit system for exploring new fisheries

DFFE's draft policy would require a permit for exploratory fishing, new fishing areas, new methods and sample collection, open only to South African applicants. Comments close 20 November 2026.

How we can help: *we can review your permit and licence-condition compliance, incident reporting and board oversight, and help you prepare comments.*



FINANCIAL SERVICES

JSE reporting changes and HSBC's formal exit

The FSCA has invited objections to the JSE's proposed amendments to the financial reporting section of the Listings Requirements. Objections close 6 November 2026. Separately, the Prudential Authority has withdrawn the authorisation of HSBC's Johannesburg branch with effect from 18 September 2026, so treasury and payment teams should update their counterparty lists.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CUSTOMS

Office paper safeguard widened and new payments on screws and bolts

From 30 October 2026, the provisional safeguard payment on office paper applies to imports from all countries, including developing countries, and provisional anti-dumping payments apply to certain screws and bolts from China and Malaysia. Confirm the rates once the notices are gazetted. ITAC has also corrected the product description in its hexagon nuts investigation (tariff subheading 7318.16.30); responses are still due by 6 November 2026.

How we can help: *we can help you check tariff classifications and update your landed-cost and customs systems.*



LABOUR

New CCMA Rules: WhatsApp notices, AI and non-attendance

Amended CCMA Rules took effect on 23 October 2026. Notices may now be sent by WhatsApp, referrals can be filed online, parties must discuss any use of AI at the pre-arbitration conference, and a commissioner may dismiss a matter if the referring party deliberately, or without explanation, fails to attend. Unions referring section 21 disputes must prove compliance, and documents held by non-parties must be obtained by subpoena. Separately, NATSAWU has been registered as a trade union from 19 October 2026.

How we can help: *we can update your dispute-management procedures, pre-arbitration templates and AI guidance, and brief your managers on the new Rules.*



MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY

SAMRASS reporting forms reissued

The forms mines used to report accidents, injuries and dangerous occurrences have been reissued as DMPR 482 to 490, with a new monthly report on injured employees who return to work. No commencement date is stated, so treat them as applying from publication.

How we can help: *we can update your incident-reporting procedures and legal register.*



Other highlights

This edition also covered a call for nominations to the Council on Higher Education (closing 19 November at 16:30), UWC's new institutional statute, two private members' Bills that would move the Hawks into the NPA's Investigating Directorate Against Corruption, the withdrawal of a private member's Public Procurement Amendment Bill, new air service licence applications, including drone operations and two new Airlink routes, and the minimum requirements for the next RTMC Chief Executive Officer.



Key dates to diarise

- **2 November:** comments on the Second-Hand Goods and Stock Theft Amendment Bills, the SARB national flag application and the NCC labelling, pricing and receipts guidelines; Eersterivier ward objections and labour tenant representations
- **6 November:** objections to the JSE financial reporting amendments; ITAC hexagon nuts responses (period ends Sunday 8 November); comments on rebate item 412.00; representations on Airlink's international routes
- **12 November:** comments on the Building Regulations Amendment Bill
- **13 November:** comments on the meat and poultry import levy; representations on domestic air service applications and international non-scheduled applications
- **16 November:** comments on the NIBCA-CEA and SAFREP consumer protection group applications
- **19 November:** nominations for the Council on Higher Education (16:30); objections to the 12 new geographical names
- **20 November:** comments on the draft wild marine fisheries policy; representations on the SAPS and NPA Amendment Bills, on international air service applications and on the 21 waste exclusion applications
- **24 November:** comments on the Upper Orange River water resource classes
- **27 November:** comments on the biometric SIM verification amendments (confirm with ICASA)
- **1 December:** representations on the proposed deregistration of HELIMO and UTAWU
- **8 December:** comments on the SABS draft standards; representations on the proposed deregistration of AZAMO
- **22 December:** comments on the draft NEM Laws (Administrative Penalties) Amendment Bill
- **4 January 2027:** comments on the draft animal identification regulations
- **29 January 2027:** comments on the draft PFMA and MFMA Amendment Bills

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