



SACHIDA

South African Cannabis and Hemp
Industry Development Association

SACHIDA NPC Registration
2024/512763/08
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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 MARCH 2025

Hemp and Cannabis Industry Welcomes Withdrawal of Hemp Food Regulations and Commits to Collaboration with Government

The South African cannabis and hemp industry welcomes the decision by the Minister of Health, Dr. Pakishe Aaron Motsoaledi, to withdraw the recent regulations prohibiting the sale, importation, and manufacture of hemp-based food products, as published in Government Gazette No. 52227 on 7 March 2025.

This is a positive and progressive step that demonstrates the Minister's willingness to listen to the voices of South African farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and the broader public who expressed deep concern about the impact of the regulations on food security, economic opportunity, and innovation.

We commend the Minister for responding to the justified outcry and for opening the door to consultative engagement with the industry. This decision paves the way for the responsible development of a thriving hemp and cannabis sector that is capable of:

- Tackling malnutrition through the introduction of safe, nutrient-dense superfoods;
- Creating jobs and sustainable livelihoods, especially in rural communities;
- Building local value chains that promote beneficiation rather than raw material exports;
- Contributing to GDP growth and the fiscus through formalisation and taxation.

We are especially encouraged by the Minister's commitment to industry consultation, which aligns with South Africa's constitutional principles of transparency, participation, and accountability in public decision-making.

As the industry, we are committed to working with the Department of Health and other relevant government departments to develop "soft-touch" regulations—a smart regulatory framework that:

- Protects public health and consumer safety,
- Encourages product innovation,
- Ensures fair access to markets, and
- Enables the inclusive and sustainable growth of this emerging sector.

We look forward to participating in upcoming engagements and policy development processes, and we remain committed to ensuring that the hemp and cannabis industries contribute meaningfully to food security, health, economic transformation, and environmental resilience in South Africa.

Issued by:

Katlego Kgopotse

Chairman of the South African Cannabis and Hemp Industry Development Association

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