

Welcome

Stephen Rabe | Hortgro Science chair





SESSION 1

Shields Up: Rethinking Biosecurity in High-Value Fruit Crops

SPONSORED BY Standard Bank

Chair: Elsa Muller | SAPO



Plant Health Act and its associated regulations

Dr Maanda Rambauli | Directorate of Plant
Health, National Department of Agriculture



OVERVIEW OF THE PLANT HEALTH (PHYTOSANITARY) ACT, 2024 (ACT NO. 35 OF 2024)

HORTGRO TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM 2026



Dr Maanda Rambauli (DOA)
26 May 2026



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BACKGROUND

- ☐ NCOP and Provincial Legislature: **Feb to May 2024.**
- ☐ Assented on **12 December 2024**
- ☐ Gazetted on **20 December 2024**
- ☐ PH Regulations were published for public comments in a government gazette on **26 September 2025.**
- ☐ Notified through WTO-SPS portal on **03 November 2025.**
- ☐ Portfolio committee: **12 December 2025**
- ☐ National workshop: **February 2026**
- ☐ Legal vetting
- ☐ Submission to the Minister for Approval

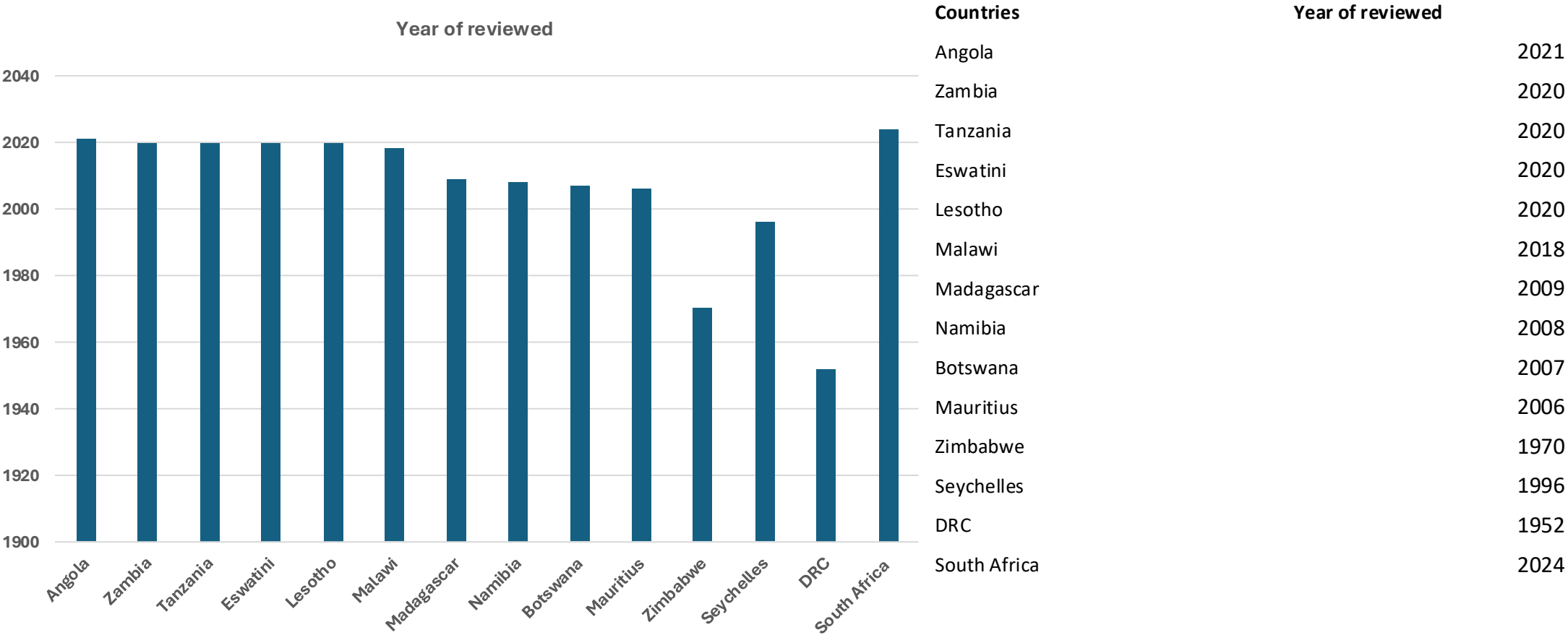


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SADC COUNTRIES LEGISLATION TIMELINE



INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

- ❑ South Africa is a signatory member of the:
 - WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS Agreement)
 - International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
- ❑ SA's phytosanitary regulatory system is based on:
 - Scientific justification of measures
 - International standards of the IPPC (as recognized in the WTO-SPS Agreement).
- ❑ SA must align its phytosanitary legislation with obligations under the WTO-SPS Agreement and IPPC.



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OBJECT OF THE PLANT HEALTH ACT

- ❑ To provide for phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of regulated pests in the Republic;
- ❑ To provide for the control of regulated pests;
- ❑ To provide for regulation of the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles into, within, and out of the Republic.



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KEY CONCEPTS

Key concepts/ Definitions

- ❑ **Phyosanitary measures**- refers to official measures, regulations or procedures aimed at:
 - preventing introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, and
 - limiting the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests.
- ❑ **Quarantine pest**- means a pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.
- ❑ **Regulated pest**- means a quarantine pest or a regulated non-quarantine pest.

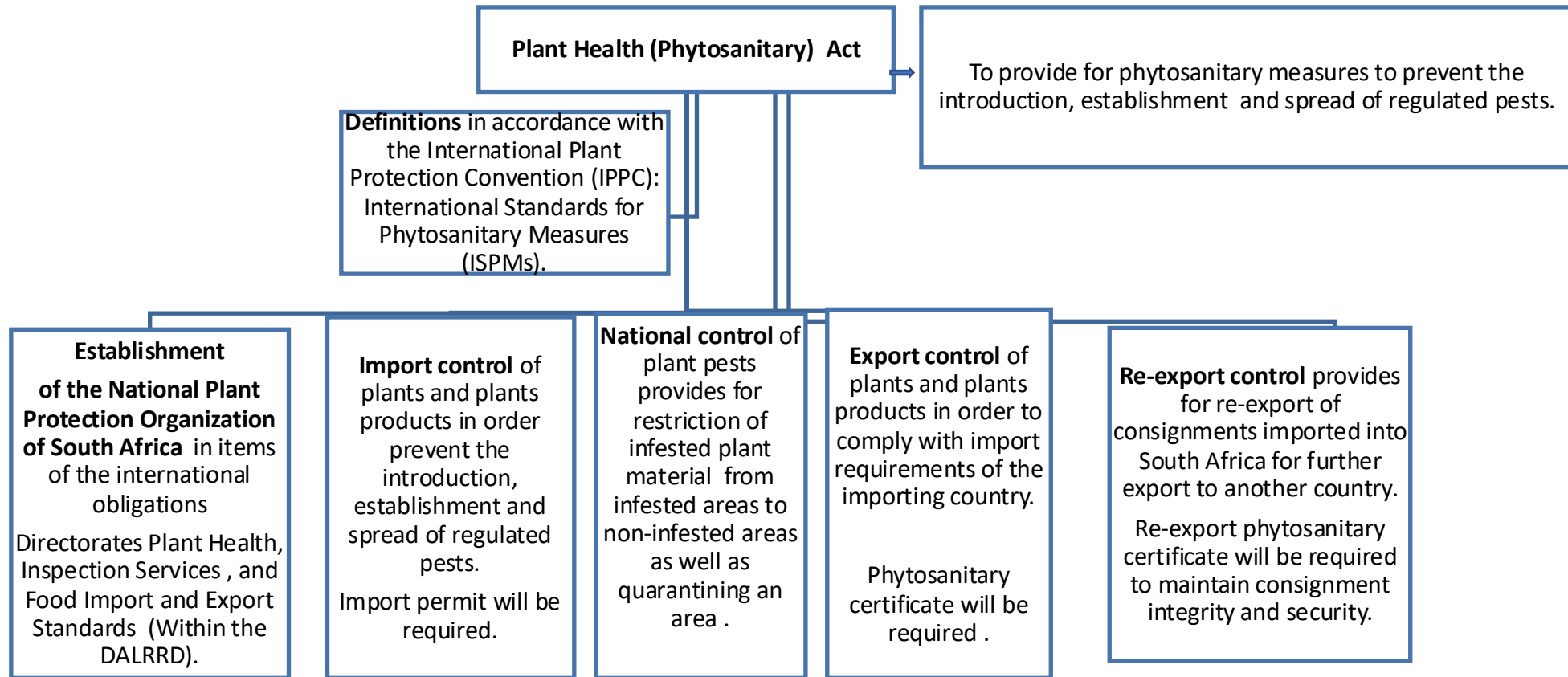


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SUMMARY OF THE PLANT HEALTH ACT: OVERVIEW



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OTHER KEY PROVISIONS

- ☐ Power of the Minister (may appoint assignee) (sec. 3 & 6)
- ☐ Power of entry and inspection and investigation (sec 8)
- ☐ In transit (sec 16)
- ☐ Compulsory notification (sec.18)
- ☐ Declaration of quarantine areas (sec.19)
- ☐ Declaration of pest free areas, places and sites of production (sec. 20)
- ☐ Establishment of area of low pest prevalence (ALPP)
- ☐ Assistance and cooperation (Sec. 32)



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THE DRAFT PLANT HEALTH REGULATIONS

- ❑ **Control Measures** provides for national control of plant pests by prohibiting the movement of plant materials from infested areas to non-infested areas.
- ❑ **Export Control** provides for export control of consignments to comply with the import requirements of the importing country.
- ❑ **Import Control** provides for the importation of regulated articles with a permit to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of regulated pests into the Republic.
- ❑ **Import control without import permit** provides for the Importation of regulated articles without import permit, subject to the import requirements.



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NATIONAL CONTROL MEASURES

- ☐ Prohibition relating to the movement of certain plants from infested area
- ☐ Compulsory notification
- ☐ Demarcation of a pest quarantine area and issuance of an order
- ☐ Establishment of pest free areas, places and sites of production
- ☐ Destruction of infested plant, plant product and other regulated articles
- ☐ Exemption relating to movement of plants, plant products or other regulated articles for research
- ☐ Compulsory compliance



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Compulsory notification

Every user of land shall immediately notify the department of any occurrence of regulated pest in a pest free area within seven days (7).

Any person or institution that has identified or recorded the occurrence of a pest for the first time (new pest) or regulated pest shall report immediately or 7 days.

Detection of a new pest shall not be publicised before notifying the department . Upon pest reporting the department shall undertake necessary phytosanitary measures to prevent the establishment and further spread of

RP.



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REGULATED PLANT PESTS UNDER SURVEILLANCE IN S.A

Pest (Insects)	Crop Affected	Distribution (Province)	Mitigation
1. <i>Bactocera dorsalis</i> (Oriental fruit fly)	Wide host range incl. mango, guava, papaya, citrus, banana	Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Gauteng, KZN, North West	Under official control, chemicals and cultural control
2. <i>Drosophilla suzukii</i> (Spotted wing drosophila)	Wide host range: blueberries and apple	Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape	Under official control, Chemical control, monitoring & delimiting survey
Pest (Virus)			
3. Banana bunchy top virus (BBTV)	Banana	KwaZulu-Natal (UGU)	Under official control, chemical and cultural control practice, monitoring & delimiting survey.
4. Pepper ringspot virus (PepSRV)	Sunflower and potatoes	Present in 7 provinces except the Western Cape & Mpumalanga	Under official, chemical control, delimiting survey on potato and other hosts
Pest (Mite)			
5. <i>Raoiella indica</i> (Red palm mite)	Date Palm	Northern Cape	Delimiting survey



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REGULATED PLANT UNDER SURVEILLANCE IN S.A

Pest (Fungi)

6. <i>Phytophthora palmivora</i> (Bud rot of palms)	Papaya	Limpopo, Mpumalanga	Delimiting survey
7. <i>Phytophthora syringae</i> (Twig blight of lilac)	Apples, citrus	Western Cape	Delimiting survey
8. <i>Tilletia indica</i> (Karnal blunt)	Wheat	Northern Cape, Limpopo	Monitoring and delimiting survey.
9. <i>Fusarium euwallaceae</i> (Polyphagous Shot hole Borer)	Pecan, acacia, oak, fig, avocado, citrus, apricot, cherry, plum	In 8 provinces, except Limpopo	Under official control, Chemical and cultural control practice, Monitoring & delimiting survey

Pest (Bacteria)

10. <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> subsp. <i>Nebraskensis</i> (Goss's Wilt)	Maize	Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Northwest, Free State	Monitoring & delimiting survey
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REGULATED PLANT PESTS: NOT PRESENT IN S.A.

Pest	Main Host/Crop Affected	Mitigation	Countries
1. <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Pierce's disease of grapevines)	900 hosts incl. fruit & nut trees (olive, almond, citrus, coffee) , ornamentals (lavender, rosemary,, vines and vegetables (grapevine), forest trees (oak)	Detection survey	USA, Europe, Asia, North America
2. Citrus huanglongbing (Asian citrus greening)	Citrus	Detection survey	Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, ESwatini, Malawi, Comoros, Central Africa Republic, Madagascar, Mauritius
3. <i>Zeugodacus cucurbitae</i> (Melon fly)	Cucurbits, mango, tomato, cashew nuts	Detection survey	Northern Mozambique
4. <i>Bactrocera zonata</i> (Peach fruit fly)	Mango, peach, guava, avocado, apple, papaya	Detection survey	Egypt, Sudan. Zambia
5. <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>cubense</i> Tropical race 4 (Foc TR4)	Banana	Detection survey Comoros,	Northern Mozambique, Madagascar



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Destruction of plants, plant products and regulated articles



Destruction method is implemented as a management strategy to eradicate pests



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Exemption relating to keeping and movement of RA for research

FOR RESEARCH



**AUTHORIZATION
LETTER**

or

Removal permit



**Infested RA must be
destroyed or disposed
in a way that it does
not pose a risk of
introduction of pests**



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LEGAL BASIS & KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORT REGULATIONS

Legal Basis

- Derived from Sections **12, 13 & 30** of the Plant Health Act, 2024
- Aligned with national and international standards, e.g., **ISPM 20**



Key Requirement - Section 13(1)

- No person may import regulated articles without an import permit
- Permit must be issued by an executive officer



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REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTING TO SOUTH AFRICA

Importer Obligations

- Apply for an import permit
- Comply with phytosanitary import requirements

NB: Permit Review & Revocation - Section 13(4)(a)

- Import permit may be reviewed or revoked where:
 - Phytosanitary import requirements have been amended
 - Permit holder has contravened the phytosanitary import requirements



KEEP PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES OUT OF RSA



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POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

- Importation of regulated articles can only be made through the prescribed PoE in Table 1 in terms of section 13(3)(a) of the Act.
- The Border Management Authority Agriculture Specialized functions with BMA is the responsible entity at borders, and they perform or conduct phytosanitary actions regarding import consignment.

1. The harbours of -	Cape Town, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha), Ngqura, and Richards Bay .
2. The International airports-	Cape Town International Airport, King Shaka International Airport , Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, Lanseria International Airport, O.R. Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport and Chief Dawid Stuurman (Gqeberha) International Airport.
3. The land borders at-	Beitbridge, Caledonspoort, Ficksburg Bridge, Golela , Grobler's Bridge, Jeppes Reef, Kopfontein, Kosi Bay , Lebombo, Mahamba, Mananga, Maseru Bridge, Nakop, Nerston, Oshoek, Qacha's Nek, Ramatlabama, Skilpadshek, Van Rooyen's Hek and Vioolsdrift.



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SMUGGLING OF PLANTS IS NOT ALLOWED



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EXTENDED DETENTION OF CONSIGNMENT FOR INSPECTION INLAND

1. Authorization

Imports for extended detention (ED) require authorization from the BMA official with DoA concurrence.

2. Verification & release

Consignments are verified at the Port of Entry (PoE), then released with seals, marks, and documents for traceability to an approved facility.

3. Clearance & reporting

Consignments must be inspected and cleared for distribution. A post-inspection report shall be submitted to the PoE.

4. Pest Interception

If a regulated pest is found, the consignment will be treated or destroyed under supervision, based on risk level.



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POST-ENTRY QUARANTINE MEASURES

- ❖ All imported planting or propagation materials or consignments destined for post-entry quarantine measures shall be presented to the BMA official at the PoE.
- ❖ The NPPOZA will then collect the consignment at PoE for establishment and propagation in the quarantine facility.
- ❖ Movement of quarantine imports without approval is prohibited.
- ❖ If quarantine imports are free from regulated pests, the consignment will be released.



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The Export Regulations

Export of plants, plant products and other regulated articles

Re-export of plants, plant products and other regulated articles

Consignment in transit

Payment of fees

Point of Exit



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BENEFIT OF THE ACT

- ☐ Promote food security
- ☐ Better assurance that products are pests and diseases free (inspections; certification)
- ☐ Safe and fair international trade
- ☐ Maintenance of existing export markets
- ☐ Access to new export markets
- ☐ Economic growth and job creation;
- ☐ Income generation and foreign exchange.



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THANK YOU



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