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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 650 OF 2005**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY****NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF BILLS INTO PARLIAMENT**

The Minister of Trade and Industry intends introducing the Bills listed below into Parliament during May 2005.

NATIONAL CREDIT BILL, 2005

To promote a fair and non-discriminatory marketplace for access to consumer credit and for that purpose to provide for the general regulation of consumer credit, and improved standards of consumer information; to promote black economic empowerment and ownership within the consumer credit industry; to prohibit certain unfair credit and credit-marketing practices; to promote responsible credit granting and use and for that purpose to prohibit reckless credit granting; to provide for debt re-organisation in cases of over-indebtedness; to regulate credit information; to provide for registration of credit bureaux, credit providers and debt counselling services; to establish national norms and standards relating to consumer credit; to promote a consistent enforcement framework relating to consumer credit; to establish the National Credit Regulator and the National Consumer Tribunal; to repeal the Usury Act, 1968 (Act No. 73 of 1968), and the Credit Agreements Act, 1980 (Act No. 75 of 1980); and to provide for related incidental matters.

PATENTS AMENDMENT BILL, 2005

To amend the Patents Act, 1978 (Act No. 57 of 1978), to require of an applicant for a patent to disclose whether an invention uses or is directly derived from an indigenous biological resource or genetic resource, and if that is the case, to provide further information regarding the nature and origin of such indigenous biological resource or genetic resource; to require of an applicant for a patent to disclose whether, to his or her knowledge, the invention relied on any traditional knowledge or traditional use of the indigenous biological resource or genetic resource; to provide for the consequences of failure to provide the information requested or to provide correct information; and generally to provide for matters connected therewith.

Upon introduction of the Bills into Parliament, copies of the Bills can be obtained from:

**The Department of Trade and Industry
Parliamentary Office
Contact person: Ms. S. Naidoo
Telephone: (021) 461-7191 or 465-7430**