

Media Release on:

**LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NBAC)
AS A SUB-COMMITTEE OF NACI**

The Minister of Science and Technology will be launching the National Biotechnology Advisory Committee (NBAC) in the NRF auditorium on Thursday, 30 November 2006. It is envisaged that this committee will function as a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI) in terms of Section 8(4)(a) of the NACI Act of 1997.

The primary functions of the NBAC will be to provide strategic advice on and interpretation of the overall development of the South African biotechnology sector, as well as monitoring and advising on issues pertaining to bioethics. The terms of reference of the advisory committee are attached for your background information.

The NBAC was conceived as a national subcommittee of NACI to support NACI's national advisory function to the Minister of Science and Technology. The following selected functions on which NACI is expected to render advice, as listed in the NACI Act, provide the context within which the NBAC will operate: coordination and stimulation of the national system of innovation; promotion of technology innovation, development, acquisition, transfer and implementation in all sectors; and coordination of S&T policies and strategies with policies and strategies in other environments. For further information please refer to www.naci.org.za.