



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO. 897

DATE OF ORAL REPLY: 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Mr D W Macpherson (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

What steps has his department taken to ensure that the Republic will continue to benefit from the (a) African Growth and Opportunity Act and (b) European Partnership Agreement after the completion of the renewal processes of the trade opportunities? NO5404E

REPLY:

- (a) SA maintains ongoing and regular bilateral engagements with the United States (US), notably through Strategic Dialogue meetings, the Annual Bilateral Forum, the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council, as well as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum. Minister Ebrahim Patel has had several formal bilateral meetings with Ambassador Catherine Tai (United States Trade Representative) since her appointment in 2021.

Matters affecting SA's AGOA eligibility have been part of these and other engagements as they have arisen. SA continues to benefit from the export opportunities provided by AGOA.

SA will be hosting the next AGOA Forum in 2023. This Forum will provide SA and other AGOA beneficiary countries the opportunity to continue engagement with the US Administration and members of US Congress to strengthen and broaden AGOA and to advocate its continuation beyond 2025.

To secure the trade benefits of AGOA, **the dtic** has undertaken export promotion activities in the US over many years. During the 2022/23 financial year, the department supported one national pavilion for SA exporters at an exhibition in the US in May 2022 (focusing on oil and gas), and will be hosting another national pavilion in the US in February 2023, in the boat building sector.

- (b) SA is party to the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that includes Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and Mozambique. The EPA entered into force in September 2016 and the Parties are currently preparing for the scheduled Midterm Review of the EPA. **the dtic** has engaged stakeholders and social partners through NEDLAC in preparing for the Review.

To secure trade opportunities, including under the EPA, **the dtic** continues to undertake export promotion initiatives in the EU. During the 2022/23 financial year, **the dtic** has supported two SA exporters by hosting national pavilions at trade exhibitions in Germany and France, covering the automotives and agro-processing sectors. In February 2023, **the dtic** will support SA's participation in a national pavilion at the Fruit Logistica trade exhibition in Germany. **the dtic** is currently preparing for trade promotion events in partnership with SA's export councils for the 2023/24 financial year.

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