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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1827

Mr D D D van Rooyen (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, given that the Republic has imposed a substantial anti-dumping tariff on structural steel from the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Thailand to protect the embattled local industry, and noting that the recent trade data from the Industrial Development Corporation shows that the Republic exported R164 billion worth of merchandise to the People's Republic of China from 1 January to 30 September 2025, which is lower than imports of R304 billion over the same period, his department envisages any form of retaliation from the specified countries; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what measures have been implemented to counter such concerns? NW2030E

REPLY:

According to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), dumping occurs when goods are exported at a price less than their normal value, generally meaning they are exported for less than they are sold in the domestic market or third-country markets, or at less than production cost. It is considered a form of international price discrimination and importantly unfair trade that can cause injury to domestic industries in the importing country, allowing for anti-dumping duties to be imposed.

The duties were thus imposed following a thorough investigation conducted by the International Trade Administration Commission ('Commission') in accordance with domestic legislation, namely the International Trade Administration Act, 2002 and the Anti-Dumping Regulations, and in compliance with South Africa's obligations under the World Trade Organization Anti-Dumping Agreement. The measure is evidence-based, proportionate and designed solely to address injurious dumping and to restore fair competition in the domestic market.

It should be noted that anti-dumping duties are a lawful and widely used trade policy instrument, including by the two trading partners. They do not constitute discretionary or protectionist action but are a rules-based response to unfair trade practices and are implemented by all WTO Members, following an investigation and evidence of dumping.



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That such measures would, in themselves, trigger retaliation is not supported by the history of trade remedy actions by the Commission against the People's Republic of China ('PRC') or the Kingdom of Thailand ('Thailand'). The Department, therefore, does not anticipate any retaliatory measures by the PRC and Thailand arising from the imposition of anti-dumping duties on structural steel products.

Regarding the trade data cited, indicating that imports from the PRC exceed exports thereto, this reflects prevailing trade patterns and the structure of bilateral trade between our two countries. This context underscores the importance of maintaining fair and rules-based trade, but does not, in itself, give rise to or imply retaliatory action, nor does it diminish the Republic's right to apply trade remedies where the statutory requirements are met.

Finally, neither country has indicated that they are contemplating retaliatory measures in response to the duties imposed by the Commission. Accordingly, no specific mitigation measures are necessary at this time. The Department will, however, continue to act decisively, within the bounds of domestic and international trade law, to defend both the integrity of its trade remedy regime and the interests of the domestic industry to promote fair trade.

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