THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2415

Mr M M Mdluli (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

(1) What total number of anti-dumping and/or safeguard investigations have been initiated by the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa since August 2025, specifically in response to trade deflection caused by United States tariff disruptions;

(2) whether he has found the current average time frame for completing such investigations to be adequate to protect South African industries and their workers from import surges that are happening right now; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NO2332E

REPLY:

I have been advised by the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC) as follows.

(1) The International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC) has not initiated any anti-dumping or safeguard investigations since August 2025 that are specifically attributable to trade deflection arising from tariff measures imposed by the United States of America.

While there has been a significant increase in applications, this trend pre-dates the United States measures. It is largely driven by global overcapacity, particularly in the steel sector, which constitutes the bulk of the caseload, as well as increased exports into South Africa from neighbouring Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, including operations involving Chinese enterprises. In addition, there has been a notable rise in the circumvention of duties imposed on Chinese products (such as glass and tyres), with imports increasingly routed through countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia. It is, therefore, not possible to directly link this increase to trade diversion resulting from United States tariff measures.

(2) ITAC is mindful of the need to conclude trade remedy investigations expeditiously to ensure effective protection for domestic industries and workers against import surges. ITAC's internal target for completing anti-dumping and safeguard investigations is 14 months, which falls within the 18 months required under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Anti-Dumping Agreement.

While these timelines balance urgency and due process, ITAC is amending its regulations to shorten timeframes where possible. Investigations are increasingly complex, involving multiple exporters across jurisdictions, and are conducted within capacity and financial constraints. In addition, the Commission operates in a litigious environment and within the legal framework of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act, which require that affected parties be afforded adequate opportunity to make representations and, where justified, request extensions, factors that may impact timelines.

Where preliminary evidence exists, provisional measures may be imposed within 6 to 8 months to provide interim relief, pending finalisation within 14 to 18 months.

Accordingly, ITAC continues to refine its processes and regulatory framework to improve efficiency while ensuring compliance with domestic and international obligations. ITAC therefore considers the current timeframes adequate for balancing the need for speed with the requirements of fairness, accuracy, and WTO compliance.

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