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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

#### **QUESTION NO. 3023**

**Ms E L Powell (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

Considering that the United States has already imposed tariffs of up to 31% on key South African exports, effectively nullifying the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) benefits, and noting that AGOA is set to expire in just four months while no concrete progress is reported, what tangible, time-bound actions will he take, in collaboration with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, to prevent a collapse of this vital sector, following his visit to that US as part of the delegation during the high level working visit of the President, Mr M C Ramaphosa, to that country from 19 to 22 May 2025?

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#### **REPLY:**

There are two (2) processes underway –

- (i) Government submitted to the United States, a framework to promote mutually beneficially trade and investment. In this regard, Minister Tau also had a bilateral engagement with the USTR Ambassador Greer to present the framework. Further, President Ramaphosa discussed the framework with President Trump. It is expected that the negotiation will start soon; and
- (ii) Diversification of markets to create resilience. The diversification efforts focus on countries that South Africa have trade agreements in place such as Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Africa

Continental Free Trade Area, European Economic Partnership Agreement, the European Free Trade Association as well as a preferential trade agreement with MERCOSUR comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Further, South Africa established strategic relationships with a number of countries in Asia and Middle East. To safeguard and expand South Africa's global trade footprint in light of trade disruptions, 22 priority markets have been identified, across region. The priority countries include countries in Africa and a mix of high-demand economies and longstanding trade partners.

South Africa continues to advocate for the extension of AGOA with all AGOA beneficiary countries included.

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