



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 379

Mr M Manyi (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition
[Interdepartmentally transferred from Finance on Wednesday, 4 March 2026]:

- (1) Noting that the Republic continues to export significant volumes of raw and semi-processed minerals at low tariff rates (details furnished), what is the current tariff structure applicable to the export of key minerals, including but not limited to chrome, manganese, iron ore, coal, platinum group metals and rare earth elements;
- (2) whether his department has conducted any economic impact assessment on increasing export tariffs on unprocessed and/or minimally processed minerals to (a) stimulate local beneficiation, (b) protect strategic mineral reserves and (c) increase state revenue; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what were the findings;
- (3) what would be the projected additional revenue to the fiscus if export tariffs on selected raw minerals were increased to strategic levels aligned with industrial policy objectives;
- (4) whether he has found that the continued export of raw minerals at low tariff rates entrenches a colonial-pattern extractive economy; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether he has considered introducing a differentiated tariff regime that incentivises domestic value addition by imposing higher export tariffs on unbeneficiated minerals while providing relief for locally processed outputs; if not, what alternative strategy exists to accelerate mineral beneficiation; if so, what are the relevant details? NW395E



REPLY:

- (1) There are currently no export duties or tariffs charged on major minerals. The status of specific commodities is as follows:
- **Chrome ore:** Currently tax-free, though government is investigating export controls to boost local ferrochrome manufacturing.
 - **Manganese & Iron ore:** No export duties or tariffs are currently in place.
 - **Coal:** No tariffs apply
 - **Platinum Group Metals (PGMs):** These are tax-free and usually exported as processed or semi-processed goods, requiring only standard regulatory permits.
 - **Rare earth & Critical minerals:** No export tariffs

South Africa applies export tariffs to the exports of diamonds and scrap metal only.

The diamond export levy is 5% of the total value. The aim of the Diamond Export Levy is to promote the development of the local economy.

The general rates of export duty on scrap metals are as follows:

- Ferrous waste and scrap: ranging from 15% to 20%
- Copper waste and scrap: 10%
- Aluminium waste and scrap: 15%

Some of these export duties are lower to the European Union (EU) under the commitments of the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU. Exports of these products to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) do not attract the export tariffs, as committed in those agreements.

It should be noted that export levies rest in the domain of the tax division of the National Treasury, which on advice from **the dtic** periodically makes changes to that tariff schedule.



(2) (a),(b),(c)

Government is currently reviewing and analysing mineral export policy measures in consultation with industry stakeholders. Any consideration of export tariffs or restrictions will be evaluated on a **case-by-case basis**, taking into account industrial policy objectives, market dynamics, legal obligations, and broader economy-wide impacts. In this context, **the dtic** is examining the **chrome value chain**, given the urgent challenges facing the sector and the need to develop a comprehensive intervention plan.

- (3) As the expansion of export taxes has not been analysed, products have not been defined and strategic levels have not been determined.
- (4) South Africa's main raw material exports are coal, iron ore, chromium ore, manganese ores, and precious metal ores. The main export markets for these resource exports are Asian countries. Former colonial powers (UK, Germany, and the Netherlands) provide a market for less than 5% of those exports.
- (5) The South African mineral export regime remains primarily market based and regulatory in nature, avoiding broad export tariffs. Government is undertaking policy assessments for strategic minerals and is considering export controls and beneficiation levers to drive downstream industrialisation and domestic value addition. South Africa's mineral export regime is guided by the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA), the Customs and Excise Act, and trade policy commitments under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

To date, Government through the implementation of the Critical Mineral and Metals Strategy aims to shift South Africa from exporter of minerals to amongst global leaders in mineral based industrialisation. The strategy aims to leverage SA's vast mineral wealth to drive economic growth, job creation and transition to green energy. Key amongst its objectives is domestic beneficiation, energy transition support prioritising minerals like PGMs, manganese and lithium which are essential for technologies like electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen fuel cells and wind turbines. Through developing



the dtic

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Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

advanced mineral processing capabilities, South Africa seeks to secure a strategic role in global value chains instead of remaining a raw material supplier.

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