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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**4650. Ms M Dlamini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:**

How is his department regulating the increasing influx of beef products from Botswana and Namibia into the South African market, given concerns that such imports are negatively affecting local farmers and undermining the competitiveness of the domestic livestock industry? NW5207E

### **REPLY**

The importation of beef products from Botswana and Namibia into South Africa occurs with the framework of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Agreement, which is a legally binding arrangement among Member States. The Members of SACU are Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. This agreement guarantees free movement of goods produced within the Customs Union, without imposition of customs duties, taxes or quantitative restrictions.

As such, South Africa cannot unilaterally impose trade restrictions on beef imports from Botswana and Namibia, as this would be inconsistent with SACU obligations.

Import restrictions and controls can only be applied in specific circumstances - particularly where animal health is at risk. In such cases, science based sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures may be implemented in accordance with international standards. These measures are administered and enforced by the Department of Agriculture, based on veterinary and public health considerations.

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