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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO.:4795

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

Whether he will furnish Ms E L Powell with updated details of the progress made towards reaching a trade deal and/or tariff deal with the United States of America following the Liberation Day tariff announcement; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NW5345E

REPLY

The US imposed reciprocal tariffs ranging between 10% to 50% against all countries citing concerns with trade deficit, lack of reciprocity and unfair trade barriers. South Africa took the decision not to retaliate to the reciprocal tariffs announced by the United States and has opted for negotiations with the US as the best tool to stabilise and enhance our trade and investment relations. South Africa is not in a unique position as the United States attempts to finalise negotiations with some 185 countries around the world.

In this regard, South Africa submitted its proposal of the Framework Deal as a basis for negotiations during President Ramaphosa's visit to the US on 20 May 2025, which was followed by the revised Framework submitted on 12 August 2025, following extensive consultations across government, the private sector and social partners.

Based on our submission of the Framework and further representation, it signalled that South Africa was ready and serious to conclude a deal with the US. As a result, the US elevated South Africa as the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa for engagement. The US has provided the draft *US-South Africa Agreement on*

Reciprocal Trade Framework which is meant to serve as a basis for negotiations of a trade agreement. In addition, the US has shared the Country Commitments document which forms the basis for the agreement on the schedules envisaged in the Framework Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs, requiring South Africa to make commitments to the benefit of the US, with no indication at this stage of the benefits for South Africa.

Minister Tau engaged with the US Trade Representative Ambassador Greer, following a senior officials engagement that was held with the US on 16 – 18 September 2025 on the text and government is involved in extensive consultations with all stakeholders inclusive of government departments, agencies of government, business organisations and labour organisations, to develop South Africa's position on the issues raised by the US in the draft Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs. Upon conclusion of the consultations, SA will submit the text with attributions for consideration by the US.

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