the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 5222

Ms K A Christie (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade Industry and Competition:

(1) What steps has his department taken to deepen economic and industrial co-operation with Brazil in order to diversify the export markets of the Republic;
(2) whether he will protect domestic poultry and sugar producers from low-priced Brazilian imports in the process; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW5646E

REPLY:

(1) The Department has taken the following steps to deepen economic and industrial cooperation with Brazil and to support diversification of South Africa's export markets:
- During President Ramaphosa's State Visit to Brazil on 9-10 March 2026, the Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Trade and Investment Promotion with Apex-Brasil, the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency. The MoU provides a structured framework for bilateral trade and investment promotion, including initiatives aimed at expanding and diversifying South African exports to Brazil.
- A South Africa-Brazil Business Forum was also held to facilitate commercial engagement and partnership opportunities between businesses from both countries with a delegation representing the defence, mining, engineering services, manufacturing, energy and pharmaceutical sectors.
- In August 2026, the Department undertook an Outward Selling Mission to Brazil and Chile focused on the aerospace and defence, mining technology, capital equipment and machinery sectors. Nine South African companies participated.

In Brazil, engagements were held with organisations including the Brazilian Mining Institute (IBRAM), Anglo American Brazil, Multotec Brazil, ABIMDE, EMBRAER, Adtech and AeroID Brasil, providing participating firms with opportunities to engage with potential buyers, partners and investors.

- During the mission participating companies identified potential export, joint-venture and partnership opportunities, which the companies are following up through commercial discussions and contract negotiations.
- The Department has also facilitated sector-based participation in its market-development initiatives in Brazil. The South African Capital Equipment Export Council (SACEEC) participated in the outward-selling mission through two member companies, strengthening collaboration between the Department's export-promotion programmes and the capital-equipment sector.
- The Department continues to build on these engagements through ongoing market development activities, buyer matching, trade promotion, and follow-up support to increase commercial opportunities and expand value-added South African exports to Brazil.
- The Department is further strengthening its on-the-ground market-development capacity through the deployment of a Foreign Economic Representative (FER) to Brazil. Brazil has been identified as one of the priority foreign economic posts to be capacitated. The FER will provide sustained market intelligence, support South African exporters, facilitate buyer and investor linkages, identify commercial opportunities and assist in addressing market-access constraints. This will ensure that the Department’s bilateral engagements are translated into sustained commercial outcomes.
- On 1 October 2026, South Africa and Brazil concluded a “Cooperation and Facilitation of Investment Agreement” to encourage and support investments between our two countries. Further, South Africa and Brazil are discussing an MOU on Strategic Industrial Cooperation, to deepen cooperation in identified areas such as Green Fuels, Bioeconomy and Industrial Decarbonisation; Mobility, Transport Equipment and Advanced Manufacturing; Agro-industrial Development and Food Systems; Mining Equipment, Beneficiation and Critical-Minerals Value Chains; Aerospace, Space and Strategic Technologies; Health,

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Technologies Cooperation; and Digital Industry, Innovation and Enabling Infrastructure.

- Finally, South Africa, as part of the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), and Brazil, as part of MERCOSUR, are currently considering expansion of the SACU-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement to include additional products of export interest, in a manner that is complementary and addresses sensitivities on each side.

(2) **the dtic** plays a central role in implementing the Poultry and Sugar Master Plans within the broader industrial development agenda, including the use of appropriate trade policy and tariff instruments to support domestic production, investment, jobs, transformation and sustainable value chains.

Poultry

the dtic has supported measures to address import pressures and protect domestic productive capacity. This includes the anti-dumping duties on frozen bone-in chicken portions from Brazil, Denmark, Ireland, Poland and Spain, which were reinstated in August 2023 following an ITAC investigation. The anti-dumping duties on frozen bone-in chicken portions from the United States were also maintained following a sunset review finalised in 2024. In addition, ITAC initiated a new sunset review in August 2026 covering frozen bone-in chicken portions from Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, which is currently under consideration. **the dtic** has also used temporary poultry rebate measures, where necessary, to address supply and food security considerations. These measures form part of the Poultry Master Plan's objective of increasing domestic production, reducing import dependence, and supporting the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector.

Sugar

the dtic, through ITAC, has also implemented tariff measures to support the sustainability of the domestic sugar industry. Following the review of the Dollar-Based Reference Price (DBRP), the DBRP was increased from US$680/ton to US$785/ton, resulting in the customs duty increasing from 483.72c/kg to 697.92c/kg, effective 28

August 2026. This measure was considered in the context of the Sugar Industry Value Chain Master Plan and the need to balance the sustainability of domestic sugar production with the interests of downstream users and consumers.

Imports from Brazil, Thailand, India and Guatemala remain a key consideration, given the scale and competitiveness of their sugar industries and the potential impact of these imports on the South African domestic market.

Government will continue to monitor sugar trade flows and assess the effectiveness of the revised DBRP in supporting domestic growers and mills, safeguarding jobs and rural economies, and promoting the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the South African sugar industry.

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