



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 6823

Mr W M Douglas (MK) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition:

Whether, with reference to his reply to question 4859 on 8 October 2025, wherein he indicated that the 30% tariff reimposed by the United States on the exports from the Republic starting from 1 August 2025 may shave off 0,2% of the Republic's economic growth and also that his department and partners have made significant progress in opening up vast new markets, his department has already determined the exact impact of the US trade tariffs on the (a) exports and (b) local industries; if not, why not; if so, what (i) is the update on their efforts to find new high-growth markets and (ii) progress has been made in the process of developing the response of the Republic to the US draft Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs?

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REPLY:

a) South Africa's exports to the United States face two kinds of tariffs: i) the so-called "reciprocal tariffs" that affected less 30% of SA exports to the US; and ii) Section 232 tariffs on automotive and auto components, steel and aluminium, pharmaceutical products, and wood and wood products that affect around 36% of SA exports to the US. It should be noted, that at least 35% of SA exports to the US remain exempted from the reciprocal tariffs. The following products are exempted from the reciprocal tariffs: semiconductors, lumber articles, certain critical minerals, stainless steel scrap and energy and energy products.

On 14 November 2025, President Trump issued an executive order exempting some agricultural products from the reciprocal tariffs. These included coffee, tea, bananas,

oranges, tomatoes, beef, tropical fruits, fruit juices, some fertilizers and food products. These exemptions further reduce the impact of the reciprocal tariffs on SA exports.

During the period January to September 2025 South Africa's exports to the US were R108 billion compared to R120 billion for January to September 2024 - a decline of 11%. The decline was more prominent in vehicles, which declined by 79%; mineral products declined by 27%; machinery & mechanical appliances which declined by 24%; and raw hides & skins, leather, furskins & articles thereof which declined by 36%. For the products that declined in exports to the US, their export to the world showed a positive growth indicating a positive impact of diversification efforts, with the exception of mineral products that declined by 4%. For example, the exports of vehicles to the world over the same period increased from R 110 billion to R122 billion an increase of 10% and machinery and mechanical appliances maintained same level on exports to the world at R107 billion, while raw hides & skins declined by 7% from R 3.3 billion to R 3.1 billion. The decline in exports is not unique to South Africa, as there has been a general decline in imports of goods and services from the world to the US due to the imposition of the unilateral tariffs. This decrease in imports from the world in the US coincides with commodities in which SA registered a significant decline in its exports.

b)

- i) **the dtic** has been working with other Departments in finalising an Economic Response package to support affected sectors in order to preserve productive capacity and jobs. We have also been strengthening trade and investment partnerships with various trade partners. These efforts are bearing fruits, targeting markets across Africa, as well as in Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Americas. We have also made significant progress in opening up vast new markets like China and Thailand, securing vital protocols for products like citrus and others. With China alone being a \$200 billion market, we are confidently expanding our reach and creating new opportunities for our agricultural producers. We are making significant inroads into new, high-growth markets across Asia and the Middle East, including the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, as well as with ASEAN and Turkiye.
- ii) Government consulted with various stakeholders including business and labour, on the draft Agreement on Reciprocal Tariffs (ART). SA's attributions on the Draft

ART text have been shared with the US and discussions are ongoing. Furthermore, Government is in consultation with NEDLAC and SACU Countries to prepare a tariff offer to the US.

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