

**REF. NO: 14/3/2**

**Mr Parks Tau**

Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition  
Private Bag X84  
**PRETORIA**  
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Dear Minister

**MINUTE M08/2025: INCREASE IN THE RATE OF ORDINARY CUSTOMS DUTY ON SUGAR IN TERMS OF THE APPROVED VARIABLE TARIFF FORMULA**

In terms of the last reviewed and approved variable tariff formula for sugar, the ordinary customs duty on sugar is calculated as the difference between the 20-trading day moving average London No. 5 settlement price and the established domestic reference price for sugar. Adjustments to the level of protection granted are made when the 20-trading day moving average of the London No. 5 settlement price shows a variance of more than US\$20/ton from the previous trigger level for 20 consecutive trading days. The resulting Dollar duty will be converted to Rand, based on the Rand/Dollar exchange rate prevailing on the day that the adjustment is triggered, and subsequently adjusted with the latest available Real Effective Exchange Rate (“REER”) as published by the South African Reserve Bank.

The International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (“Commission”) considers adjustments in the ordinary customs duty on sugar, once the conditions for an adjustment are met.

In terms of the last reviewed and approved variable tariff formula for sugar, conditions for an upward adjustment in the tariff from the previous trigger level were met and the South African Sugar Association (“SASA”) forwarded a letter of confirmation to this effect. A key driver of this development has been favourable weather conditions in key producer nations (Brazil and India primarily), lower sugar futures prices amid speculation that further tonnages will be diverted from bio-ethanol production in India towards export markets and lower crude oil

prices (as Brazilian mills which produce over two thirds of sugarcane, divert it to bio-ethanol production when oil prices are good, and substitute towards refined sugar when they are not).

The 20-trading day moving average of the London No. 5 settlement price of sugar triggered an adjustment at US\$448.70/ton on 27 October 2025. The corresponding Rand/US Dollar (R/US\$) exchange rate was R17.2611 to US\$1.00. If the domestic reference price, the 20-trading day moving average of the London No. 5 settlement price, the R/US\$ exchange rate on 27 October 2025 and the latest available REER<sup>1</sup> are applied to the formula, the ordinary customs duty on sugar needs to be adjusted upwards from the previous trigger level of 364.68c/kg to 436.38c/kg.

In light of the above, the Commission recommends that the rate of ordinary customs duty on sugar, classifiable under tariff heading 17.01, be increased from 364.68c/kg to 436.38c/kg.

Yours sincerely



**Ayabonga Cawe**  
Chief Commissioner

Date: 30 October 2025

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<sup>1</sup> The REER is a lagging indicator, currently being 109.30 for July 2025, as published by the South African Reserve Bank (<https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/what-we-do/statistics/releases/selected-statistics>).