



Press Release

RE: FACILITATION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

- The import restrictions implemented by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) on selected agronomic and horticultural crops are not against the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) or the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement, as these measures are in accordance with our national laws and regulations, and should therefore not be referred to as a **ban**.
- The mechanisms facilitated by the NAB for close border periods on the importation of certain primary agronomic and horticultural products during times of sufficient local production are part of our **growth-at-home strategy to develop** our crop industry.
- Registered importers are **normally notified 5 months** in advance on any future import restriction for the 19 monitored products to enable them to plan their logistics on time. A final notice is issued at least 10 days before the end of each month.
- The Namibian crop industry is still at the infant stage when compared to the South African crop industry which is well developed, with a high level of economies of scale
- Namibia currently imports almost **100%** of farming inputs from South Africa, which means, South African farmers have a production cost advantage of almost **25%** compared to Namibian farmers due to high input costs in Namibia.
- This results in Namibian products being more expensive than South African products on the shelves.
- Therefore, restrictions are put in place to protect our local farmers from cheap foreign imports and to encourage them to produce more in order to stimulate economic growth and food self-sufficiency in Namibia
- South Africa remains a very important trade partner to Namibia, as we currently import over **80% of our crop-based products (primary and processed products)** and production inputs from them.
- And we strongly believe South Africa can also help us develop our crop industry.

Additional Info

On the other hand, in 2020, Namibia exported horticultural and agronomic products worth R402 million, and imported products worth R5.2 billion, 13 times the value of our exports to South Africa, and surely this is not balanced trade.

End

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