

## FINALISATION OF THE SACU TARIFF OFFER TO AfCFTA AND RATIFICATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

---

20 FEBRUARY 2023, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

### PRESS RELEASE

1. The Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini, His Excellency Cleopas Siphon Dlamini, as the current Chair of the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), has officially announced the finalisation of the SACU Tariff Offer on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 during the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His Excellency Dlamini reiterated SACU's commitment to Africa's integration and specifically the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The submission of the Tariff Schedule speaks to that commitment with the view to ensuring that the SACU business community leverage on the benefits of the AfCFTA.
2. Concomitantly, His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana has deposited the instruments for ratification of the AfCFTA. Following Botswana's submission, all SACU Member States have now ratified the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA.
3. SACU submitted an initial Tariff Offer in November 2020, in preparation for the commencement of trading in January 2021 which needed further work to comply with the agreed modalities. Subsequently, the region worked tirelessly to meet the threshold of 90 percent of products to be liberalized. This process has now been completed as noted by the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AfCFTA Council of Ministers responsible for Trade and Industry held from 11-12 February 2023, in Gaborone, Botswana.
4. The Tariff Offer of 7111 tariff lines, which represents 90 percent of the SACU Tariff Book in line with the Agreed Modalities for Tariff Liberalisation, was submitted to the AfCFTA Secretariat on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for verifications. The SACU Secretariat is currently working in close collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat to facilitate the completion of technical verification of the Offer. SACU anticipates that this process will be finalised soonest to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement.
5. The implementation of the AfCFTA is one of the priority areas in the SACU Strategic plan. Therefore, SACU is also committed to ensuring that the African Union theme

6. of the year 2023 which is “*The Year of AfCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation*” is realised.

Issued by:



**Thabo David Khasipe**  
**Executive Secretary of SACU**

For further information contact:

Ms. Kungo Mabogo

SACU Secretariat

Communications Manager

Email: [info@sacu.int](mailto:info@sacu.int)

Cell: +264811468385