DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION

NOTICE 3734 OF 2026

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ITAC'S SELF-INITIATED INVESTIGATION ON SUGAR CLASSIFIABLE UNDER TARIFF HEADING 17.01 AND THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE DOLLAR-BASED REFERENCE PRICE ("DBRP")

The International Trade Administration Commission ("ITAC" or "the Commission") received two applications from industry value chain stakeholders, relating to the current level of the DBRP for sugar.

The South African Sugar Association ("SASA") applied for an increase in the current DBRP from US$680/ton to US$905/ton, citing amongst other reasons, the need to protect the local sugar industry and ensure its sustainability. This application was made known to industry stakeholders, who were provided the opportunity to submit preliminary comments.

Subsequently, the Beverage Association of South Africa ("BEVSA") applied for a reduction in the current DBRP from US$680/ton to between US$552/ton and US$650/ton, citing amongst other reasons, the adverse impact of current duties on beverage producers, bottlers, consumers, etc.

The divergent applications submitted by industry stakeholders prompted a need to determine the most appropriate course of action, in alignment with ITAC's legislative and policy framework, including the strategic objectives outlined in the Sugar Industry Value Chain Masterplan.

After extensive engagements between Government and industry stakeholders, it was agreed that a combined evaluation of both applications represents the most efficient and equitable approach to address the diverging requests regarding the appropriate level of the DBRP.

This combined evaluation will be undertaken through a self-initiated review, in accordance with section 16(1)(d)(ii) of the International Trade Administration Act, 2002. This review subsumes and replaces the individual applications submitted by SASA and BEVSA in respect of the appropriate level of the DBRP for sugar. With effect from the initiation of this review, those applications will not be considered as standalone processes, and the information contained therein will be assessed solely within the framework of the self-initiated review. The Commission will also solicit comments and gather additional data from all interested parties within the Sugar Industry Value Chain as part of the review. Given the facts of this matter, the Commission believes that this approach will be the most efficient and effective manner to conduct an investigation into the appropriate level of the DBRP for sugar.

Entity:
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PUBLICATION PERIOD:

Representation should be submitted to the above ITAC officials within **six (6) weeks** of the date of this notice.