



SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION SECRETARIAT

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External Document	09/07
Purpose	Press Statement
Circulation	All
Subject	SACU Council of Ministers Meeting To be held on 28 September 2007 in Maseru, Lesotho.
Date of media release issue	21 September 2007

1. The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Council of Ministers meeting is scheduled for Friday 28 September 2007 in Maseru, Lesotho.
2. The SACU Council of Ministers consists of Ministers of Finance and Trade from each Member State (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland). It is the supreme decision making authority on SACU matters and meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and make decisions on issues relating to the Policy direction; Policy mandates and the functioning of SACU Institutions.

3. The meeting will be preceded by the SACU Commission Meeting which will also be held in Maseru, Lesotho from the 25 to the 27 July 2007, in preparation for the Council Meeting.
4. This is the third SACU Council of ministers meeting held out of the four scheduled for this year. The previous Council meetings were held in April and July in Swaziland and Namibia respectively.
5. The Council of Ministers Meeting will focus on the progress and status of a number of initiatives in the SACU work programme whose primary objective is the implementation of the 2002 Agreement and its intended benefits to the Member States.
6. Key initiatives in the SACU work programme are the Organizations Regional Integration initiative; the implementation of the roadmap on the establishment of the Tariff Board and National Bodies and SACU's trade agenda.
7. Studies being carried out on rebates and duty draw backs and the management of the common revenue pool will also be discussed. The two studies are intended to guide the development of an equitable distribution of the customs revenue collected by the common revenue pool. The studies

will also guide the approach in the management of the common revenue pool.

8. Also in SACU's work programme are the development of common policies, a common negotiating mechanism and the establishment of the Tribunal. All three, critical to the implementation of SACU's trade agenda.
9. Council will also get an update on Trade Negotiations and take decisions on key issues with regards to furthering SACU Trade Relations and SACU Trade Negotiations with third parties

End.

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