



17th Council of Ministers Meeting - 05 December 2008, Walvis Bay, Namibia.

1. The SACU Council of Ministers is holding their yearend meetings in Walvis Bay Namibia on Friday 05 December. This is the last meeting of the year and has been preceded by a meeting of Permanent Secretaries of Finance and Trade (Customs Union Commission) from the SACU Member States which commenced from the 1st to the 3rd of December 2008 and Ministers of Trade on Thursday the 4th December 2008. The Ministers of Trade and Industry will deliberate on trade and industry issues of the SACU region. The meeting will be chaired by Honourable Minister Timothy Thahane Finance and Economic Development Planning from Lesotho.

2. At this Council of Ministers meeting, the focus will be on the critical issues that will pave the way for the New Year and the future of SACU. The Council of Ministers will deliberate on the following issues;
 - (a) The Report of the Executive Secretary on the status of the implementation of the SACU work programme.

- (b) Declaration on the outcome of the SACU Council of Ministers Retreat which was held in Kasane, Botswana on 29th - 1st September 2008. The Retreat was convened to do introspection on the operation and functioning of SACU given the emerging internal and external challenges facing SACU. Council of Ministers took important decisions on fast tracking the implementation of the SACU Agreement.
- (c) Allocation of the Revenue Shares of Member States for 2009/2010 Financial Year.
- (d) Trade Facilitation programme for SACU, as well as a status report on SACU's trade negotiations.
- (e) Finally Council will consider recommendations on the Aid for Trade Initiative and other business of SACU.

This meeting will conclude 2008 calendar year. SACU Council of Ministers meets four times a year. Two meetings are held in Namibia while the other two are held in other Member States on a rotational basis.

END

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