



**Courtesy call of the new Ambassador of France in Namibia
to the SACU Executive Secretary
15 January 2009.**

1. The new Ambassador of France in Namibia, his Excellency Jean-Louis Zoël, paid a courtesy call to the SACU Executive Secretary, Ms Tswelopele Moremi on Thursday 15 January 2009.
2. The SACU Executive Secretary welcomed the Ambassador to the SACU Secretariat and congratulated him on his appointment as the new Ambassador of France in Namibia.
3. His Excellency Jean-Louis Zoël informed the Executive Secretary that the purpose of his visit was to familiarise himself with the operations of SACU. He noted that among all the International Organisation SACU was the only one with its Headquarters based in Namibia.
4. The Ambassador indicated that he will be attending a meeting of French Ambassadors accredited to African Countries and one of the items for discussion is the SADC EU EPA Negotiations in which SACU Member States are participating. He will be expected to give a short presentation on SACU as it is the same Country to which he is accredited.
5. The Ambassador was briefed on the implementation of the 2002 SACU Agreement and SACU's participation in the SADC EU EPA negotiations.

6. The SACU Executive Secretary informed the Ambassador that that unlike the previous SACU Agreements where focus was on the Common Revenue Pool the 2002 Agreement provides for deeper regional integration with the provision for common institutions, common policies and a common negotiating mechanism.
7. In addition to the Common Revenue Pool, there is a huge emphasis on using trade with third parties to integrate SACU into regional and global economy.
8. As a result SACU as a collective has concluded a number of trade negotiations with third parties such as SACU-EFTA FTA and the SACU-MERCOSUR PTA. SACU is also in the process of other trade negotiations with third parties such as the SACU - India PTA.
9. The ES further indicated that SACU had done well in all her trade negotiations with third parties. However, the most challenging has been the SADC EU EPA Negotiations, which has threatened the cohesiveness of SACU as a collective.
10. The Ambassador thanked the Executive Secretary for her brief on SACU, in particular SACU's trade related initiatives to date. The Executive Secretary extended an invitation for further discussions; between the SACU Secretariat and the French Embassy; in Namibia on areas of mutual interest and concern.

END

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