

Operational Newsletter (various)

035/08- 2015

Dear Valued Customer,

Zimbabwe suspends raw platinum export tax

Zimbabwe has suspended its 15% levy on raw platinum exports after mining companies asked the government to give them two years to set up smelters and refineries, according to a report by the state-owned The Herald newspaper.

The government introduced the tax on unrefined platinum in January to encourage local processing of the metal.

Source: FTW Online, 13th August 2015

Establishment of SADC customs union back on the agenda

The establishment of a Customs Union (CU) is back on the table and a new target date will reportedly be set at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) 2015 Ordinary Summit to be held in Gaborone, Botswana on August 17 and 18.

SADC director of policy, planning and resource mobilization, Dr Angelo Mondlane, said that although the original 2010 target had not been met, “significant progress” had been made towards regional integration efforts with all but two of the SADC members now part of a Free Trade Area (FTA).

Source: FTW Online, 13th August 2015

Mozambique pushes up benchmark prices of sugar imports

To protect its domestic industry from “unfettered entry of the product from neighbouring countries,” the Mozambique government has increased its benchmark prices for sugar imports.

Minister of industry and trade, Ernesto Tonela, told the press that the benchmark price for the import of brown sugar would increase 47.8% to US\$806 per tonne, compared to the current US\$385.

Source: FTW Online, 7th August 2015

Zimbabwe bans second-hand leather and textile imports

The Zimbabwean government has banned the importation of second-hand clothes and shoes with effect from September 1 this year, reports the state-owned daily newspaper, The Herald.

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The products have been removed from the general import licence, with future importations now subject to seizure and destruction.

Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa was cited by The Herald as saying the move would protect the local leather and textile industry which had reportedly been under strain since the influx of cheap imports.

Source: FTW Online, 3rd August 2015