



B E R R Y & D O N A L D S O N

NEWS UPDATE

SUGAR TARIFFS DEMANDED

Similar to the recent stand-off between local producers and importers of whole bird and chicken pieces, South African sugar producers are now demanding tariffs to protect them from cheaper imports.

Demands by the South African Sugar Association (SASA) to increase tariffs for imported sugar will result in higher prices for sugar, adding R6bn per year to consumers' shopping bills and raising the costs of production for South Africa's food, beverage and confectionery manufacturers.



According to the Association of Southern African Sugar Importers (ASASI), the tariff demands by SASA will mean an immediate 44% price increase on all imported sugar. This will affect the costs of key pantry staples such as bread, cereal, tomato sauce, and sweets.

SASA has petitioned the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa to double the threshold to allow increased tariffs on imported sugar. Specifically, it is requesting to raise the "dollar-based reference price" to \$764 from \$358 per tonne of sugar.

This comes in the wake of the Trade and Industry Minister imposing a range of tariff on chicken imports in an attempt to balance the interests of local consumers with that of local producers and their employees.

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