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NEWS

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Zambia considers potato chip import ban

In a move to support local potato farmers, the Zambian government is set to ban chain stores from importing certain processed foodstuffs, such as potato chips, if they fail to comply with a presidential directive to stock locally produced goods.

Deputy minister of commerce, trade and industry, Miles Sampa, was quoted by the daily newspaper, Lusaka Times, as issuing a two-month ultimatum to international chain stores such as Shoprite, Spar, Pick n Pay and Hungry Lion to start buying potatoes produced by local farmers – or face a ban on imports.

“We are serious in trying to ensure that all supermarkets operating in Zambia stock produce by local farmers and are processed by local industries. Potato chips that are imported from South Africa make Zambia spend about US\$12 million per year to bring in those chips,” Sampa reportedly said during a tour of a potato processing plant in Ndola last week.

FTW www.ftwonline.co.za

