

Dear Ms Nonhlanhla Khumalo,

I trust you are well.

I would like to submit comment on the proposed tariff increase for the 2022/23 – 2024/24 Financial Years. As a business port user, Importer and Exporter, we would like to oppose the suggested Tariff increase that was determined by the TNPA in the course of this year. South African businesses have been faced with significant challenges, specifically over the last 18 months, such as a weak national economy, a volatile currency, continued lockdown restrictions, loss of income and business activity and even retrenchments. The proposed increase will only add to the already suffering local businesses. As an import / export company we were forced to down size our business and retrench a portion of our company to ensure our companies remain open. We are barely surviving as the local industry has taken a knock. We rely on the international market to purchase from us and therefore, utilise the port by means of container exports to various destinations where our product is required. The increase to our FOB costs alongside with the increase of freight rates, lack of equipment, lack of vessel space and fight for space against the fresh produce and mineral and commodity exporters, makes it extremely difficult for the small to medium enterprise businesses to grow and succeed.

For reference we export platinum grit (HS Code 2621) and Garnet (HS Code 2513) and Zircon (HS Code 2615). Our volumes average +/- 6000T per month out of the Port of Cape Town alone. We might be a small business in comparison to the larger mineral and commodity exporters, however, these volumes are considered extremely high for our business. Even at these volumes we are challenged to try and get this exported every month due to reasons beyond our control. For this reason, we oppose any tariff increase for the next Financial year so that we and many other businesses like us are able to stabilise and grow in this new norm.

I look forward to hearing from you by means of acknowledgment of my email.

Kind Regards

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