

SA Trade Statistics for January 2019

SARS MEDIA RELEASE

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SARS releases trade statistics for January 2019

Pretoria, 28 February 2019 – The South African Revenue Service (SARS) today releases trade statistics for January 2019 recording a trade deficit of R13.08 billion. These statistics include trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN). The year-to-date (01 January to 31 January 2019) trade deficit of R13.08 billion is an improvement on the deficit for the comparable period in 2018 of R27.44 billion. Exports year-on-year increased by 10.1% whilst imports for the same period showed a decrease of 5.7%.

Including trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

The R13.08 billion trade deficit for January 2019 is attributable to exports of R88.68 billion and imports of R101.76 billion. Exports decreased from December 2018 to January 2019 by R13.63 billion (13.3%) and imports increased from December 2018 to January 2019 by R16.15 billion (18.9%).

On a year-on-year basis, the R13.08 billion trade deficit for January 2019 is an improvement from the R27.44 billion deficit recorded in January 2018. Exports of R88.68 billion are 10.1% more than the R80.51 billion exports recorded in January 2018. Imports of R101.76 billion are 5.7% less than the R107.95 billion imports recorded in January 2018.

December 2018's trade surplus was revised downwards by R0.47 billion from the previous month's preliminary surplus of R17.17 billion to a revised surplus of R16.70 billion as a result of ongoing Vouchers of Correction (VOC's).

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Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R7 013	- 51%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R2 098	- 12%
Machinery & Electronics	-R1 219	- 16%
Base Metals	-R1 042	- 9%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 909	- 20%
Mineral Products	+ R 941	+ 4%
Total	-R11 340	83%
Total Movement	-R13 631	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Including BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	+ R5 775	+31%
Original Equipment Components	+ R3 543	+79%
Base Metals	+ R2 579	+74%
Textiles	+ R1 951	+74%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R1 367	+37%
Chemical Products	+ R1 258	+13%
Mineral Products	-R3 480	- 19%
Total	-R12 993	80%
Total Movement	-R16 147	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results from December 2018 (revised) to January 2019 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R23 877 million – this is a decrease of R3 211 million from December 2018.

Imports: R10 090 million – this is a decrease of R1 691 million from December 2018.

Trade surplus: R13 787 million – this is a deterioration of R1 520 million in comparison to the R15 306 million surplus recorded in December 2018.

America:

Exports: R8 748 million – this is a decrease of R1 010 million from December 2018.

Imports: R8 922 million – this is an increase of R10 million from December 2018.

Trade deficit: R174 million – this is a deterioration of R1 021 million in comparison to the R846 million surplus recorded in December 2018.

Asia:

Exports: R29 722 million – this is a decrease of R3 570 million from December 2018.
 Imports: R49 669 million – this is an increase of R11 500 million from December 2018.
 Trade deficit: R19 947 million – this is a deterioration of R15 070 million in comparison to the R4 877 million deficit recorded in December 2018.

Europe:

Exports: R21 131 million – this is a decrease of R6 434 million from December 2018.
 Imports: R31 329 million – this is an increase of R6 103 million from December 2018.
 Trade deficit: R10 198 million – this is a deterioration of R12 537 million in comparison to the R2 339 million surplus recorded in December 2018.

Oceania:

Exports: R595 million – this is a decrease of R308 million from December 2018.
 Imports: R1 543 million – this is an increase of R164 million from December 2018.
 Trade deficit: R948 million – this is a deterioration of R471 million in comparison to the R477 million deficit recorded in December 2018.

Excluding trade data with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (BELN)

The trade data excluding BELN for January 2019 recorded a trade deficit of R20.44 billion.

Summary

The R20.44 billion deficit for January 2019 is as a result of exports of R77.87 billion and imports of R98.31 billion. Exports decreased from December 2018 to January 2019 by R13.18 billion (14.5%) and imports increased from December 2018 to January 2019 by R15.79 billion (19.1%).

The cumulative deficit for 2019 is R20.44 billion compared to R33.58 billion deficit in 2018.

Trade highlights by category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BELN:	
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	-R6 982	- 54%
Precious Metals & Stones	-R1 754	- 11%
Machinery & Electronics	-R1 195	- 19%
Base Metals	- R 998	- 9%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 777	- 25%

Vegetable Products	+R 810	+25%
Total	-R10 896	82%
Total Movement	-R13 184	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million		
Section:	Excluding BELN:	
Machinery & Electronics	+R5 640	+31%
Original Equipment Components	+R3 543	+79%
Base Metals	+R2 527	+74%
Textiles	+R1 889	+ 82%
Chemical Products	+R1 395	+ 15%
Plastics & Rubber	+ R1 352	+ 37%
Mineral Products	-R3 512	- 20%
Total	R12 834	81%
Total Movement	R15 787	100%

Trade highlights by world zone

The world zone results for Africa excluding BELN from December 2018 (Revised) to January 2019 are given below.

Africa:

Exports: R13 066 million – this is a decrease of R2 763 million from December 2018.

Imports: R6 636 million – this is a decrease of R2 052 million from December 2018.

Trade surplus: R6 430 million – this is a deterioration of R711 million in comparison to the R7 141 million surplus recorded in December 2018.

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SA Trade Release Table (including BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2019 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(585 403 718)	0.64	(585 403 718)	0.64	1.15	1 018 628 645	1 284 019 223	1 018 628 645	1.58	1 784 528 518	1 604 032 363	1 604 032 363
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 979 177 501	2.75	2 979 177 501	2.75	5.28	4 684 814 336	4 247 840 376	4 684 814 336	1.68	1 889 749 967	1 705 636 835	1 705 636 835
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(375 607 407)	0.36	(375 607 407)	0.36	0.24	215 155 572	227 936 998	215 155 572	0.58	933 313 815	590 762 979	590 762 979
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	376 885 861	1.12	376 885 861	1.12	4.03	3 575 428 069	3 247 680 237	3 575 428 069	3.14	3 049 726 448	3 198 542 208	3 198 542 208
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	12 148 589 057	1.84	12 148 589 057	1.84	29.95	26 560 206 444	21 766 600 333	26 560 206 444	14.16	20 627 025 749	14 411 617 387	14 411 617 387
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(4 759 304 149)	0.57	(4 759 304 149)	0.57	7.21	6 395 237 563	5 739 529 787	6 395 237 563	10.96	11 172 746 525	11 154 541 712	11 154 541 712
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 218 709 173)	0.36	(3 218 709 173)	0.36	2.05	1 816 589 772	1 576 979 890	1 816 589 772	4.95	5 266 269 280	5 035 298 945	5 035 298 945
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(165 630 908)	0.55	(165 630 908)	0.55	0.22	198 903 525	311 819 875	198 903 525	0.36	342 432 765	364 534 433	364 534 433
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(66 355 377)	0.89	(66 355 377)	0.89	0.62	546 345 697	442 468 265	546 345 697	0.60	459 768 313	612 701 074	612 701 074
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 382 670 642)	0.45	(1 382 670 642)	0.45	1.27	1 124 933 212	1 906 859 538	1 124 933 212	2.46	3 143 273 865	2 507 603 854	2 507 603 854
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(3 413 332 215)	0.26	(3 413 332 215)	0.26	1.34	1 191 207 095	1 084 102 270	1 191 207 095	4.52	3 635 837 452	4 604 539 310	4 604 539 310
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 292 338 930)	0.11	(1 292 338 930)	0.11	0.17	152 931 488	149 459 110	152 931 488	1.42	1 221 008 597	1 445 270 418	1 445 270 418
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 040 567 696)	0.27	(1 040 567 696)	0.27	0.44	387 930 841	367 319 209	387 930 841	1.40	1 307 444 294	1 428 498 537	1 428 498 537
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13 649 249 753	9.16	13 649 249 753	9.16	17.28	15 321 342 415	13 030 427 035	15 321 342 415	1.64	2 085 030 265	1 672 092 662	1 672 092 662
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 874 680 487	1.80	4 874 680 487	1.80	12.34	10 940 961 617	11 879 626 757	10 940 961 617	5.96	5 618 734 768	6 066 281 130	6 066 281 130
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(17 641 643 917)	0.27	(17 641 643 917)	0.27	7.31	6 484 042 161	6 046 192 252	6 484 042 161	23.71	24 677 421 948	24 125 686 078	24 125 686 078
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2 021 779 075)	0.77	(2 021 779 075)	0.77	7.66	6 796 456 887	5 719 198 405	6 796 456 887	8.67	8 497 919 999	8 818 235 962	8 818 235 962
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(1 995 844 640)	0.20	(1 995 844 640)	0.20	0.58	511 364 624	496 119 809	511 364 624	2.46	2 533 238 964	2 507 209 264	2 507 209 264
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 306 087 012)	0.26	(1 306 087 012)	0.26	0.50	447 304 010	461 250 674	447 304 010	1.72	1 600 491 464	1 753 391 022	1 753 391 022
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	91 652 789	3.25	91 652 789	3.25	0.15	132 388 307	49 690 922	132 388 307	0.04	35 292 552	40 735 518	40 735 518
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	100 940 206	2.36	100 940 206	2.36	0.20	175 272 115	476 473 468	175 272 115	0.07	104 026 154	74 331 909	74 331 909
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(8 038 664 187)	0.00	(8 038 664 187)	0.00	0.00	1 812 585	166 138	1 812 585	7.90	7 963 022 123	8 040 476 772	8 040 476 772
Total	Total SA Rand	(13 082 763 392)	0.87	(13 082 763 392)	0.87	100.00	88 679 256 980	80 511 760 571	88 679 256 980	100.00	107 948 303 825	101 762 020 372	101 762 020 372

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Month % of total	Imports		
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)		Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)		Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	13 786 672 182	2.37	13 786 672 182	2.37	26.93	23 877 209 702	22 035 757 589	23 877 209 702	9.92	10 090 537 520	12 797 489 304	10 090 537 520
AMERICA	(174 107 011)	0.98	(174 107 011)	0.98	9.86	8 747 523 348	7 118 712 456	8 747 523 348	8.77	8 921 630 359	9 296 726 945	8 921 630 359
ASIA	(19 946 933 625)	0.60	(19 946 933 625)	0.60	33.52	29 721 915 314	26 594 616 370	29 721 915 314	48.81	49 668 848 939	51 285 987 927	49 668 848 939
EUROPE	(10 198 133 308)	0.67	(10 198 133 308)	0.67	23.83	21 130 457 597	17 048 634 507	21 130 457 597	30.79	31 328 590 905	32 647 652 972	31 328 590 905
OCEANIA	(947 845 781)	0.39	(947 845 781)	0.39	0.67	594 978 567	624 536 572	594 978 567	1.52	1 542 824 348	1 692 837 213	1 542 824 348
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 030 063 730	20.23	4 030 063 730	20.23	4.78	4 239 652 031	6 455 718 197	4 239 652 031	0.21	209 588 301	227 609 464	209 588 301
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	367 520 421	-	367 520 421	-	0.41	367 520 421	633 784 880	367 520 421				
Total	(13 082 763 392)	0.87	(13 082 763 392)	0.87	100.00	88 679 256 980	80 511 760 571	88 679 256 980	100.00	101 762 020 372	107 948 303 825	101 762 020 372
Temporary Imports	January 2019											
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 694 875 203											

Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 3) Current month data is preliminary and all other data is revised
- 4) Temporary gold imports are not included in imports or export numbers for the trade balance calculation
- 5) The ratio is the value of total exports divided by the value of total imports

SA Trade Release Table (excluding BELN)

Harmonised Sections		Cumulative Trade		Monthly Trade		Exports				Imports			
Roman Section	Description	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Month % of total	Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month % of total	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)	Month Total 2019 (R'm)
I, Ch 1-5	Animals/Animal Products	(567 621 991)	0.58	(567 621 991)	0.58	1.00	782 216 611	982 169 502	782 216 611	1.37	1 472 509 061	1 349 838 602	1 349 838 602
II, Ch 6-14	Vegetable Products	2 363 487 265	2.42	2 363 487 265	2.42	5.18	4 032 634 208	3 748 274 127	4 032 634 208	1.70	1 858 851 423	1 669 146 943	1 669 146 943
III, Ch 15	Fats and Oils	(474 412 607)	0.20	(474 412 607)	0.20	0.15	115 659 809	138 174 856	115 659 809	0.60	931 728 396	590 072 416	590 072 416
IV, Ch 16-24	Prepared Foods	(432 283 898)	0.84	(432 283 898)	0.84	2.97	2 312 112 627	2 144 337 008	2 312 112 627	2.79	2 721 141 366	2 744 396 525	2 744 396 525
V, Ch 25-27	Mineral Products	9 724 378 340	1.68	9 724 378 340	1.68	30.90	24 064 462 245	20 187 841 069	24 064 462 245	14.59	20 570 614 454	14 340 083 905	14 340 083 905
VI, Ch 28-38	Chemical Products	(5 109 194 070)	0.51	(5 109 194 070)	0.51	6.93	5 395 864 182	4 832 403 586	5 395 864 182	10.69	10 654 137 290	10 505 058 252	10 505 058 252
VII, Ch 39-40	Plastics and Rubber	(3 597 440 358)	0.28	(3 597 440 358)	0.28	1.79	1 390 279 974	1 201 125 632	1 390 279 974	5.07	5 229 968 627	4 987 720 332	4 987 720 332
VIII, Ch 41-43	Hides, Skins and Leather	(193 999 057)	0.46	(193 999 057)	0.46	0.21	162 344 910	272 386 631	162 344 910	0.36	327 482 488	356 343 967	356 343 967
IX, Ch 44-46	Wood and articles thereof	(57 142 544)	0.88	(57 142 544)	0.88	0.55	429 799 807	332 236 390	429 799 807	0.50	351 302 918	486 942 351	486 942 351
X, Ch 47-49	Pulp and Paper Products	(1 626 298 060)	0.35	(1 626 298 060)	0.35	1.10	860 143 065	1 629 584 023	860 143 065	2.53	3 122 689 281	2 486 441 125	2 486 441 125
XI, Ch 50-63	Textiles and Clothing	(3 419 749 440)	0.18	(3 419 749 440)	0.18	0.99	773 525 691	705 957 789	773 525 691	4.27	3 254 089 212	4 193 275 131	4 193 275 131
XII, Ch 64-67	Footwear and Accessories	(1 390 587 686)	0.03	(1 390 587 686)	0.03	0.06	45 834 095	43 174 167	45 834 095	1.46	1 213 209 082	1 436 421 781	1 436 421 781
XIII, Ch 68-70	Stone, Plaster, etc	(1 146 580 952)	0.19	(1 146 580 952)	0.19	0.35	271 636 357	260 891 784	271 636 357	1.44	1 298 817 045	1 418 217 309	1 418 217 309
XIV, Ch 71	Precious Stones	13 966 961 131	16.97	13 966 961 131	16.97	19.06	14 841 389 842	12 988 935 292	14 841 389 842	0.89	1 358 411 625	874 428 711	874 428 711
XV, Ch 72-83	Base Metals	4 447 105 003	1.75	4 447 105 003	1.75	13.31	10 367 990 651	11 340 960 521	10 367 990 651	6.02	5 531 796 506	5 920 885 648	5 920 885 648
XVI, Ch 84-85	Machinery and Appliances	(18 644 335 347)	0.22	(18 644 335 347)	0.22	6.61	5 145 673 981	4 661 348 898	5 145 673 981	24.20	24 468 926 578	23 790 009 328	23 790 009 328
XVII, Ch 86-89	Transport Equipment	(2 795 448 085)	0.68	(2 795 448 085)	0.68	7.66	5 961 298 422	4 834 333 986	5 961 298 422	8.91	8 459 885 767	8 756 746 507	8 756 746 507
XVIII, Ch 90-92	Precision Products, etc	(2 126 363 320)	0.15	(2 126 363 320)	0.15	0.49	378 617 428	373 235 545	378 617 428	2.55	2 529 090 674	2 504 980 748	2 504 980 748
XX, Ch 94-96	Misc Manufactured Articles	(1 509 080 816)	0.14	(1 509 080 816)	0.14	0.30	235 662 285	264 074 801	235 662 285	1.77	1 592 795 475	1 744 743 101	1 744 743 101
XXI, Ch 97	Works of Art/Antiques	91 373 295	3.24	91 373 295	3.24	0.17	132 082 808	49 477 124	132 082 808	0.04	35 291 752	40 709 513	40 709 513
XXII, Ch 99	Other Unclassified ¹⁾	96 084 724	2.35	96 084 724	2.35	0.21	167 006 919	470 593 774	167 006 919	0.07	95 870 664	70 922 195	70 922 195
XXIII, Ch 98	Special Provisions ²⁾	(8 038 664 187)	0.00	(8 038 664 187)	0.00	0.00	1 812 585	166 138	1 812 585	8.18	7 963 022 123	8 040 476 772	8 040 476 772
Total	Total SA Rand	(20 439 812 660)	0.79	(20 439 812 660)	0.79	100.00	77 868 048 502	71 461 682 643	77 868 048 502	100.00	105 041 631 807	98 307 861 162	98 307 861 162

World Zones	Monthly Trade		Cumulative Trade		Month % of total	Exports			Month % of total	Imports		
	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio Exports/Imports	Trade Balance (R'm)	Ratio ⁵⁾ (Exports/Imports)		Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)		Month Total 2019 (R'm)	Cumulative 2018 ³⁾ (R'm)	Cumulative 2019 ³⁾ (R'm)
AFRICA	6 429 622 914	1.97	6 429 622 914	1.97	16.78	13 066 001 224	12 985 679 661	13 066 001 224	6.75	6 636 378 310	9 890 817 286	6 636 378 310
AMERICA	(174 107 011)	0.98	(174 107 011)	0.98	11.23	8 747 523 348	7 118 712 456	8 747 523 348	9.08	8 921 630 359	9 296 726 945	8 921 630 359
ASIA	(19 946 933 625)	0.60	(19 946 933 625)	0.60	38.17	29 721 915 314	26 594 616 370	29 721 915 314	50.52	49 668 848 939	51 285 987 927	49 668 848 939
EUROPE	(10 198 133 308)	0.67	(10 198 133 308)	0.67	27.14	21 130 457 597	17 048 634 507	21 130 457 597	31.87	31 328 590 905	32 647 652 972	31 328 590 905
OCEANIA	(947 845 781)	0.39	(947 845 781)	0.39	0.76	594 978 567	624 536 572	594 978 567	1.57	1 542 824 348	1 692 837 213	1 542 824 348
OTHER UNCLASSIFIED	4 030 063 730	20.23	4 030 063 730	20.23	5.44	4 239 652 031	6 455 718 197	4 239 652 031	0.21	209 588 301	227 609 464	209 588 301
SHIP/AIRCRAFT	367 520 421	-	367 520 421	-	0.47	367 520 421	633 784 880	367 520 421				
Total	(20 439 812 660)	0.79	(20 439 812 660)	0.79	100.00	77 868 048 502	71 461 682 643	77 868 048 502	100.00	98 307 861 162	105 041 631 807	98 307 861 162
Temporary Imports	January 2019											
Gold Imports ⁴⁾	6 694 875 203											

Notes:

- 1) Other Unclassified: Military equipment, unknown countries, ships & aircraft stores & films
- 2) Special Provisions: Motor car parts for Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP)
- 3) Current month data is preliminary and all other data is revised
- 4) Temporary gold imports are not included in imports or export numbers for the trade balance calculation
- 5) The ratio is the value of total exports divided by the value of total imports

Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia (Only)

Trade Statistics with BELN countries

The trade data with the BELN for January 2019 recorded a trade surplus of R7.36 billion.

Summary

The R7.36 billion surplus for January 2019 is as a result of exports of R10.81 billion and imports of R3.45 billion. Exports decreased from December 2018 to January 2019 by R0.45 billion (4.0%) and imports increased from December 2018 to January 2019 by R0.36 billion (11.7%).

The cumulative surplus for 2019 is R7.36 billion compared to R6.14 billion surplus in 2018.

Trade Highlights by Category

The main month-on-month export movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	-R 345	- 42%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 132	- 9%
Live Animals	-R 101	- 30%
Misc Manufactured Articles	-R 61	- 22%
Textiles	-R 54	- 11%
Footwear & Accessories	-R 52	- 33%
Base Metals	-R 44	- 7%
Wood Pulp & Paper	-R 42	- 14%
Mineral Products	+R 467	+ 23%
Total	-R 364	81%
Total Movement	-R 447	100%

The main month-on-month import movements:

R' million	BELN:	
Section:		
Precious Metals & Stones	+R 283	+55%
Machinery & Electronics	+R 135	+ 67%
Textiles	+R 62	+18%
Vehicles & Transport Equipment	+R 36	+139%
Prepared Foodstuff	-R 79	- 15%
Chemical Products	-R 138	- 18%
Total	+R 299	83%
Total Movement	+R 361	100%

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ENDS.

For any enquiries, please contact Mr Sandile Memela on SMemela2@sars.gov.za