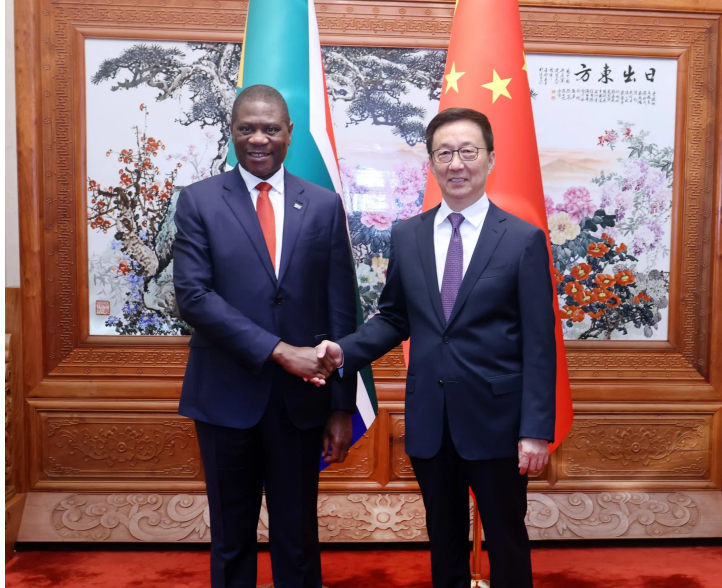

South Africa Sees Trade Boost Under China Tariff Policy



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South Africa expects gains in export competitiveness following China's new zero-tariff policy,

which is set to expand market access for eligible African countries, according to Trade, Industry

and Competition Minister Parks Tau, in a statement reported by Xinhua News Agency.

The policy grants zero-tariff treatment to 53 African countries maintaining diplomatic relations with China. The first phase began on May 1, 2026, and will run for two years.

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) confirmed that qualifying South African exports to China will be exempt from customs duties between May 1, 2026, and April 30, 2028, subject to compliance with tariff schedules and rules of origin requirements.

Minister Tau urged exporters to strictly follow origin certification rules, including proper documentation and valid certificates of origin to ensure smooth customs clearance.

The DTIC said the initiative offers an opportunity to diversify exports into higher-value goods, including agricultural products, industrial goods, and beneficiated items. It added that the policy supports industrial development, job creation, and export-led growth.

Authorities are working with the South African Revenue Service to finalize customs procedures and legal adjustments, while a support desk and compliance guidelines have been introduced for exporters.

Officials said the initiative reflects outcomes of the 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and strengthens economic ties between China and Africa, improving access to a major global market.

