



Meeting with senior SADC (Southern African Development Community) sugar industry delegation- Wednesday 31st January 2018

Overview: This meeting was hosted jointly by the APPGs for Africa, Agriculture and Food for Development and Trade out of Poverty. The delegation was made of Government officials and private sector representatives (funded in part by AB sugar) who offered insights into the sugar industry within the SADC region. Discussion focused around the importance of preferential access to the UK post-Brexit for the economic growth of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and Least Developed Countries (LDC).

SADC Delegation List:

- Dr Mike Matsebula – delegation leader and consultant to the SADC Sugar Industry Consultative Forum
- Ken Ndala, Private Secretary Ministry of Industry Trade and Tourism representing the Malawian sugar industry
- Mark Bainbridge, Managing Director, Illovo Sugar Malawi plc
- Johann van der Merwe, Representing Zambia Sugar
- Philip de Pass, representing Mozambique Sugar Industry
- Julian Price, Representing the Swaziland Sugar Industry
- Arvind Bucktwar, Second Secretary, Mauritius High Commission
- Supported by AB Sugar staff- Katharine Teague, Head of Advocacy & Jack Withrington, Advocacy Adviser

APPG Attendees:

- Meeting Chair- Chi Onwurah MP (CO), Chair of APPG on Africa
- Baroness Northover (BN), Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Zambia and Angola
- Lord Cameron (LC), Co-Chair of APPG for Ag and Food Development
- Lord Boateng (LB), Secretary of APPG for Ag and Food Development
- Lord Purvis, member of APPG on Africa
- Liz McInnes MP (LM), Shadow Foreign Minister for Africa
- Henrietta Bailey, Coordinator of the APPG for Africa, Royal African Society
- Stephanie Gillibrand, Coordinator Trade out of poverty APPG, Saana Consulting
- Tom Pengelly, Saana Consulting
- Caspar Van Vark, Coordinator Agriculture and Food for Development

Meeting summary:

- CO started the meeting with the APPG's belief that Brexit negotiations offered an opportunity to boost agriculture as a tool for economic development and that a focus of her APPG was to make sure that "*Africa gains from Brexit*". This was a key thematic focus for the APPG following on from their most recent report on UK-Africa Trade relations post-Brexit which included a delegation case study on the Economic Partnership Agreement with SADC.



- Philip, Johann and Ken all spoke with regards to arguments for maintaining preferential access to the EU and UK markets for the sugar industry and the importance of the industry for the development of local rural communities (including support for smallholder farmers and providing healthcare). See hand-out from AB Sugar for more details.
- They said it was vital that SADC sugar maintains preferential access to the UK market as well as preserve the value of such access which has been eroded from the EU sugar reforms and competition from larger, subsidised competitors.
- LC warned that UK trade talks will be multi-faceted and will not focus solely on agriculture – as such, there is a threat that sugar could be traded away (in exchange for services for example).
- However, LC believed that the likely removal of farmer subsidy after Brexit might impact sugar beet in the UK.
- BN said that the UK has committed to keeping EBAs with LDCs however, Brexit might happen “*without things resolved*” – leaving open the possibility that EPAs might not be rolled over in time before March 2019.
- BN said that continued contact from the SADC delegation was important as negotiations progresses (or stalls).
- She also stressed that national SADC governments should also be making this case and that their engagement with the UK government was very important. The delegation said they would follow up on engaging with SADC governments over the coming months.
- BN also mentioned the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in April which she said was a critical moment for these governments to raise the delegation’s concerns. LM reinforced this saying it was a vital meeting to influence.
- LB praised the delegation for visiting, saying that it was one of the few to lobby parliamentarians directly and echoed BN’s comments that SADC member nations should be doing it more themselves.
- LB said it was unlikely that LDC/ACPs would be in a worse position that they are now (implying zero tariffs will be kept), reasoning that the UK has always taken a more progressive stance to sugar cane compared to the EU.
- However, LB said he was concerned that SADC could be negatively impacted from collateral damage with UK’s negotiations with larger trading partners (e.g. Brazil). LB recommended that the delegation begin a dialogue with Brazil – who purport to be ‘friends of Africa’ and supporting its countries’ development. CO said they would reach out to the APPG for Brazil to discuss this further.
- LB advised that the group should stress the industry’s support of smallholder farmers as that would be the UK’s primary interest in sugarcane. LB mentioned that the ‘KwaZulu-Natal smallholder farmer model’ was one the APPG supports and believes should be replicated more widely.
- There was a discussion on Tate and Lyle’s future viability, with LB questioning whether they would seek to get the cheapest sugar possible (regardless of location) which would put SADC



at a disadvantage. CO volunteered to table Parliamentary Questions asking the Government what representations Tate and Lyle have made to ministers.

- CO concluded the meeting with a request the SADC delegation keep her and the groups informed of updates and developments in the months ahead and vice versa.