



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS**

**14 AUGUST 2025**

## **SAFDA WELCOMES THE GAZETTING OF THE BLOCK EXEMPTION FOR PHASE 2 OF THE SUGAR MASTER PLAN**

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) extends its sincere appreciation to the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Parks Tau, for gazetting the block exemption under the Competition Act, to facilitate the implementation of Phase 2 of the South African Sugarcane Value Chain Master Plan to 2030 also known as the *Sugar Master Plan*. This milestone paves a way for robust and inclusive discussions on the Sugar Master Plan, with the shared purpose of contributing to the long-term sustainability of the South African sugar value chain.

The purpose of these Regulations, in line with section 2 of the Competition Act, is to exempt specific categories of agreements or practices from the application of sections 4(1)(a), 4(1)(b)(i), 4(1)(b)(ii) and 5(1) of the Act. This exemption will facilitate:

1. Collaboration between sugar cane producers, sugar producers and downstream customers on the identification of diversification opportunities; and
2. The collective determination by sugar cane producers, sugar producers and downstream sugar users of:
3. Producer price restraints, including coordination on the pricing methodology to be adopted in determining price increases of sugar products and the timing of such price increases; and
4. Local volume commitments, establishment of offtake targets and the mechanisms by which to monitor such commitments and targets

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Since 2018, the South African sugar industry has faced numerous challenges, including high import volumes, the sugar tax, decline in sugar sales and revenue, floods, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other disruptions. These have placed immense pressure on vulnerable small-scale sugarcane producers and various components of the sugar industry.

This gazette is a critical step towards stabilising the industry and ensuring its long-term sustainability, underpinned by diversification initiatives that will open new market opportunities and improve resilience.

As SAFDA, we are committed to working closely with government and industry stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of this framework and to improve the livelihoods of our farmers across the country.

**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN**

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