

An Assessment of the Zimbabwe-Namibia Bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement

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KEYWORDS Trade Agreement. Bilateral Arrangement. International Trade. Exports. Imports

ABSTRACT The objective of this paper was to assess the Zimbabwe-Namibia preferential bilateral trade agreement to see if it has been beneficial to both countries. The authors used trade statistics obtained from the International Trade Centre's Trademap for both exports and imports for the period 2005-2014 for Zimbabwe and Namibia. These statistics were then analyzed and compared with trade statistics from the same source for the same period relating to other preferential bilateral agreements Zimbabwe has with other countries such as Botswana, DR Congo, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. The results showed that both parties have utilized the Zimbabwe-Botswana agreement. The Zimbabwe-Malawi agreement is underutilized but much better than the Zimbabwe-Namibia agreement. The Zimbabwe-Mozambique agreement is performing well. The Zimbabwe-DR Congo performed exceptionally well in 2006. The Zimbabwe-South Africa agreement has an outstanding performance. The value of their trade was at its peak in 2011 amounting to US\$7,193,064,000. South Africa is the major trade partner of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe-Namibia trade agreement is the least performer of all the agreements compared. The highest value of two-way trade was recorded in 2014 amounting to US\$26,768,000. It is clear from the results that the agreement has benefited neither country. The author has recommended that Zimbabwe and Namibia should jointly institute a study to identify and correct the problems associated with the agreement.