



EFF STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING AGOA TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM

Thursday, 2 November 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) notes the ongoing Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum that began today and will run until the 4th of November, in Johannesburg.

The EFF condemns and rejects the United States of America's (US) use of AGOA as nothing but an instrument of imperialist control to micromanage African countries. African countries have thus far succumbed to this bullying strategy, which has seen South Africa and other African economies import cheap and potentially harmful agricultural products such as pork, beef, and poultry products from the US.

The EFF has consistently warned South Africa and African countries to stand against the US bullying them into unethical and unfair trade relations. We have also called on African economies to seek alternative markets for the products on which America threatens to impose tariffs on for AGOA participants.

However, South Africa's failure to stand against US trade bullying has undermined the country's food sovereignty and has led to the decline of a poultry industry that was creating jobs, as the US continues to dump imports into South Africa.

South Africa and African countries should decisively start subsidising their agricultural sectors to grow the agrarian economy, as it is one sector that will have an immediate impact on jobs and food security. Relying on other countries for food poses a significant risk for political and national security.

The EFF calls on African countries to reject the political conditionalities and foreign policy manipulation that comes with AGOA. It is time for African countries to stop sacrificing principles on the altar of trade convenience.

Additionally, we condemn the US's trade hypocrisy of instructing their trading partners not to protect infant industries and extend subsidies, when they are doing exactly the same. The US federal government extends more than 30 billion US dollars a year in subsidies for farm companies and agriculture.

All the progressive forces all over the world are beginning to stand and fight against imperialism, and for alliances that will place all nations on a stronger footing in global trade relations, not to be undermined by the US bullying tactics.

The outcomes of the ongoing AGOA Summit must re-affirm African countries' sovereignty on political, economic and social decisions and must never be a platform to make African countries puppets of American imperialism.

The African continent must also consolidate common perspectives aimed at common prosperity, and reject the USA's strategy of divide and rule, by excluding certain African countries from AGOA for their own sovereign political and economic decisions.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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