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SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK

Financial Markets Department

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Information notice on the official gold and foreign exchange reserves of the South African Reserve Bank as at 31 January 2023

This notice provides detail of the US dollar equivalent of the level of the South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) official gold and foreign exchange reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and foreign currency deposits received from customers, published today in the SARB's Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 January 2023.

	31 January 2023 (US\$ millions)	31 December 2022 (US\$ millions)	Change ⁽¹⁾ (US\$ millions)
Gold reserves	7 670	7 320	350
SDR holdings	6 365	6 284	81
Foreign exchange reserves ⁽²⁾	47 829	46 966	863
Gross reserves	61 864	60 570	1 294
Foreign currency deposits received ⁽³⁾	(7 575)	(7 297)	(278)
Forward position ⁽⁴⁾	555	554	1
International liquidity position	54 844	53 827	1 017
Exchange rates			% change
EUR/US\$	1.0837	1.0661	1.65
GBP/US\$	1.2325	1.2033	2.43
US\$/ZAR	17.4584	16.9888	2.76
SDR/US\$	1.3485	1.3314	1.28
US\$/CNY	6.7571	6.9422	(2.67)
Gold price			% change
Market (US\$)	1 902.58	1 815.73	4.78
Statutory (ZAR)	33 216.00	30 847.07	7.68

- Figures might not add up due to rounding.
- Foreign exchange reserves include foreign currency deposits received (FDR).
- FDR balances include the foreign loans and foreign exchange purchases by the National Treasury (NT), both through outright purchases and foreign exchange swaps.
- The forward position mainly reflects outstanding foreign exchange forward transactions. These include foreign exchange swaps to sterilise foreign exchange purchases and liquidity management swaps.
- Sterilisation foreign exchange swaps refers to swaps conducted to sterilise foreign exchange purchases from foreign direct investments and other foreign exchange inflows, such as from International Finance Institutions (IFI'S).
- Liquidity management swaps refers to foreign exchange swaps conducted in the normal course of business to manage money market liquidity.

The increases in the gross reserves and international liquidity position were mainly due to the proceeds of a foreign loan received from KfW Development Bank, on behalf of government, amounting to EUR300 million (equivalent USD327 million), the increase in the US dollar gold price, valuation adjustments due to the depreciation of the US dollar and asset price movements. These factors were partially offset by foreign exchange payments made on behalf of government.