



BUSA

BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA

BUSA NEWS BULLETIN

Edition 5

For BUSA Members

LOOKING BACK OVER THE LAST MONTH

There have been a number of policy issues arising in the month of May. Eskom submitted an application to NERSA attempting to circumvent the requirement to provide information to substantiate the Multi-Year Price Determination, version 4 thereby undermining good governance and accountability. The deliberations on the Critical Infrastructure Bill continue in Nedlac, but are drawing to a close. The Nedlac task team on Sugar Sweetened Beverages has continued to meet and Parliament has started to engage on the same issue. The task team on the National Skills Development Plan commenced deliberations in Nedlac. The National Minimum Wage Bill has been drafted and deliberations will shortly commence in Nedlac in this regard.

BUSA's work on a business approach to economic transformation has been ramped up during the course of May 2017. The approach provides a roadmap for business to deepen and accelerate economic benefit and participation by Black people in the South African economy. The BUSA Economic and Social Policy Committees and the Economic Transformation Think Tank deliberated on an updated version of the business approach. The BUSA Board held a special meeting to consider the draft and endorsed the draft for distribution to BUSA membership for internal member consultations. Members have been asked to consult internally on the background document that has been distributed, and to revert by 14 June 2017 in this regard. Thereafter, external stakeholder consultations will commence.

BUSA MEMBERSHIP & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

□ **Meeting with Minister of Finance**

BUSA hosted a meeting with newly-appointed Minister of Finance Malusi Gigaba and newly-appointed Deputy Minister of Finance Sifiso Buthelezi at Liliesleaf Farm on 12 May 2017. Key messages underscored by the Minister included that there would be no changes from the commitments made in the 2017 Budget; that radical economic transformation and inclusive growth were one and the same concept; and that government policy was clear and unchanged.

□ **CEO Meeting with the President**

A number of CEOs, many of whom are BLSA Board members, attended a private meeting with President Zuma. At the meeting, the following five issues were tabled by the CEOs, led by Mr Jabu Mabuza in his capacity as convener of the CEO initiative:

1. Necessity to address State capture and proceed to convene the Commission of Inquiry
2. Signing the FICA Bill into law
3. Urgent finalisation of MRPDA
4. Improving governance of state owned enterprises, particularly in Eskom, and
5. A call for the border management Agency staff to be scrapped

The President advised that the FICA Bill had been signed into law earlier that day. The parties agreed to reconvene urgently on the issues and such meeting is to be scheduled in June.

□ **SA-Tanzania Joint Business Council**

BUSA was invited to deliver business remarks at this State Visit to Tanzania. Nkateko Nyoka, Chief of

Regulatory Affairs of Vodacom, stepped in to represent BUSA in this regard. The presentation touched base on the strategic priorities and trade relations between the two countries. We take this opportunity to thank Vodacom and Mr Nyoka for representing business at this important event.

□ **SAIA Indaba**

SAIA representing the short-term insurance industry, held an Indaba on 10 May focusing on implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) and transformation of the industry. Tanya Cohen, BUSA CEO participated on a panel considering the NDP. The BUSA input focused on the importance of partnerships and collaboration between social partners and government in the implementation of the NDP.

□ **National Skills Landscape**

Bev Jack attended the Centre for Development & Enterprise (CDE) Workshop on Youth Unemployment, which focused on the role of business in scaling up SA's response to youth unemployment and creating a more labour intensive economy. A report compiled by Bev was circulated to the Social Policy Committee.

□ **Parliamentary Engagements**

BUSA was invited to attend Budget Votes for a number of Departments. Rothschild executives were fortunately able to attend, on BUSA's behalf, the Budget Votes for the Department of Trade Industry, Economic Development as well as the farewell of Mr Lungisa Fuzile, the former Director General of Treasury.



CAPACITY BUILDING PROCESSES

ILO Course on Macroeconomics for Socio Economic Negotiations

The International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), provided the opportunity for three BUSA nominees to participate in a training on Macroeconomics for Socio-Economic Negotiations. The course involves 10 weeks of online study and 1 week of on-site training in Turin, Italy between 26-30 June 2017. Following a call for nominations made to Econpol and Socpol, the following individuals were nominated to participate: Jan Schoeman (RMI), Constance Netshifhefhe (PPC) and Patricia Pillay (CGCSA).

CCBA Workshop

BUSA's Constituency Capacity Building and Advocacy (CCBA) programme is underway and already three workshops have been held to introduce members to proposed changes in the skills development landscape, to plan how business should respond and to prepare for work-integrated learning and artisan training initiatives. Close to 100 business representatives from a range of sectors (mining, manufacturing, retail and agriculture) have already benefitted and are happy with the role BUSA is playing in providing information and soliciting views at these workshops.



The CCBA project is primarily aimed at capacity building of constituency organizations represented on the National Skills Authority in order that they may play a meaningful role in advocating the National Skills Development Strategy and on matters related to the Skills Development Act. BUSA was granted funding for the business sector capacity building from the National Skills Fund for a 24-month period, starting November 2016. More workshops are to be rolled out in July / August 2017 in different locations across the country, so members are to please keep a lookout for these workshops.

SUBMISSIONS

On 17 May 2017, BUSA submitted comments to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on the Regulation of Agricultural Land Holdings Bill

- ☐ On 17 May 2017, BUSA submitted comments to Parliament on the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Bill.
- ☐ On 24 May 2017, BUSA submitted comments to NERSA on ESKOM's application to deviate from certain requirements of the MYPD methodology and MIRT.
- ☐ On 26 May 2017, BUSA submitted comments to parliament on the Draft Rates and Monetary Amounts and Amendment of Revenues Bill (with reference to the Health Promotion Levy on Sugary Beverages).

- On 31 May 2017, BUSA submitted comments on the National Skills Development Plan Matrix

BBC NEDLAC PARTICIPATION

On 10 May 2017, the BUSA and BBC leadership met and discussed the difficulties experienced in relation to BBC's participation through BUSA in Nedlac. Both BUSA and BBC did not regard it as appropriate that BBC continue to be represented through BUSA in Nedlac.

On 11 May 2017, the BUSA Board resolved to formally terminate BBC's participation through BUSA. BBC was advised of this decision in writing, and this was communicated to the Nedlac Executive Director.

BUSA has confirmed that should BBC wish to apply for its own seat in Nedlac in terms of the Nedlac Act and Constitution, that the BBC is free to do so and BUSA will not stand in its way. In the interim, however, Nedlac has confirmed that BBC has no standing in Nedlac. BUSA confirms its commitment to work with all organised business formations and stakeholders across the broader spectrum of society, including the BBC, within the spirit of co-operation, accountability, collaboration and mutual respect.

UPCOMING BUSA MEETINGS IN JUNE 2017

1 June 2017	Meeting with National Treasury on carbon offsets and methodology for z-factor.
1 June 2017	BUSA Member Meeting to endorse the Black Economic Transformation Position Paper
6 June 2017	BUSA Trade, Transport & Logistics Sub-Committee meeting.
8 June 2017 (tbc)	Nedlac NAMA / NTBs task team meeting (for task team members only).
15 June 2017	Nedlac Teselico meeting (for sub-committee members only).
21 June 2017 (tbc)	Nedlac Public Finance & Monetary Policy Chamber Meeting (for Chamber members only)
22 June 2017	BUSA Environment Sub-Committee Meeting.
29 June 2017	Nedlac Trade & Industry Chamber Meeting (for Chamber members only).
28 June 2017	Sub-Committee on Education and Training Social Policy Standing Committee meeting

IMPORTANT NOTICES

A reminder that for social policy related matters, the contact person is Phila Fakude (Phila.Fakude@busa.org.za) and for economic and trade policy matters, it is Tyson Sibanda (Tyson.Sibanda@busa.org.za).

For enquiries, please contact Nomaza Spelman via email on Nomaza.Spelman@busa.org.za / 011 784 8000

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of finalisation on this Bulletin, circumstances do change from time to time.