

23 July 2021

### **Agbiz participates in various initiatives to restore order and ensure that supply chains operate optimally**

The events of extreme looting, vandalism, intimidation and in general plain anarchy over large parts of KwaZulu/Natal (KZN), and parts of Gauteng, last week have shocked many South Africans to the core. For some time a number of factors had been building up to this situation and it just needed a spark and some orchestration to provide the tipping point for these events to unfold. There were clear failures by government, as acknowledged by President Ramaphosa, in especially the security cluster to prevent this mayhem and an independent and in-depth investigation and enquiry is needed to get to the root causes thereof. Confidence, and especially business confidence, will only be restored once the plotters, instigators and perpetrators are brought to justice, and justice is seen to be done expeditiously. Justice delayed is justice denied. For too long the principle of accountability in a constitutional democracy, in which the rule of law should reign supreme, has been severely compromised in South Africa. It will require a special collaborative effort by all in government, business, labour and community to move South Africa into a far better space and socio-economic environment, as envisioned by former President Mandela and the writers of our constitution.

This past week, Agbiz has participated extensively in various meetings and initiatives in restoring order and ensuring that supply chains in especially the agro-food system operate optimally again. These include meetings with President Ramaphosa and cabinet colleagues on Tuesday and a special Nedlac Exco meeting with various cabinet ministers at the end of last week. We have daily meetings of the Supply Chain Corridor Safety and Security Working Group and that has done immense work to get the roads and highways, especially the N3 and N2, open again, restart port operations in Durban, and get the Natcor railway line operational again. Agbiz has participated in various other industry initiatives to provide alternatives, such as the Maputo Export Corridor Initiative with DTIC, and address security hotspots in key areas with the SAPS through the NATJOC, which has been coordinated by BUSA. Matters have also been addressed at NATJOINTS

through our links into BUSA and Nedlac, while our collaboration with PPGI remains important to address specific sectoral matters.

Through these initiatives and a collaborative approach, we have been able to contribute to restoring law and order and getting supply chains to operate remarkably well. However, the cyberattack on Transnet and the reintroduction of load-shedding this week are not helping. We have also launched a collaborative effort with Kwanalu to provide humanitarian assistance where possible. Our challenges are immense, but we will not waver in our attempts to build a better, prosperous and more inclusive South Africa.

Dr John Purchase

CEO: Agbiz