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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BUSA statement on Presidential Business Summit in Pretoria  
on 18 March 2011**

BUSA is encouraged by President Zuma's initiative in convening the Business Summit tomorrow as it demonstrates another significant milestone in constructive co-operation between government and business. The BUSA-led business delegation sees the agenda for the Summit as a springboard for periodic and deeper collaboration between the two parties in future.

The Summit reflects a commitment to having structured engagement to enhance constructive relations between government and business at the highest level. In addition, this important meeting takes place at a time when business, like government, would like to see a South African economy which is bigger, stronger and better to promote inclusive job-rich growth in the years ahead - against the backdrop of the New Growth Path, the State of the Nation Address and the recent National Budget.

The Business Summit will be a high level dialogue that business hopes will not only examine programs and projects that business believes it can support, but will also interrogate any constraints that adversely prevent the country from achieving a higher inclusive job-rich growth path. The intention from the BUSA side is to focus on practical proposals as to how these bottlenecks can be unblocked.

Among the key issues that business will be raising will be initiatives on skills development and expediting infrastructural development, as well as promoting entrepreneurship and small business development. There will also be a careful examination of the extent





to which key sectors such as manufacturing, mining and agriculture can be important job-drivers in the years ahead.

One of the important cross cutting issues likely to be addressed by business is the negative impact of regulatory uncertainty on investment decisions and a general need to lighten the regulatory burden on business, especially on small business.

BUSA therefore looks forward to a positive engagement with Government on key practical issues to promote growth and employment in ways that advance an increasing level of trust and mutual confidence between government and business.

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