

## Message from the CEO

### The Year in Review

2010 saw BUSA engage in robust discussions with Parliament on diverse issues affecting business. With South Africa hosting the FIFA World Cup mid-way through the year, much of Parliament's work was concentrated in the first and last quarters of the year.

Overall, in 2010 BUSA responded to parliamentary calls for comment on the national budget, the quality of and access to basic education, the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) II, the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, SMME access to finance and the Companies Amendment Bill.

In addition, BUSA was invited to appear before two parliamentary committees outside the scope of regular public hearings. In March, BUSA shared its views on SA trade policy with the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry, and in November BUSA was invited to discuss poverty alleviation, job creation and decent work with the Portfolio Committee on Labour.

BUSA President Futhi Mtoba, myself and other BUSA office bearers were proud to represent organised business at official parliamentary engagements in 2010, including the President's State of the Nation Address and budget speeches by the Minister of Finance.

Our increased involvement with Parliament this year, and the general success with which it was met, has undoubtedly served to strengthen BUSA's relations with the legislature. Today I can state unequivocally that BUSA is the recognised voice of business in Parliament.

I would like to thank the many BUSA members and representatives who contributed to written submissions in 2010, some of whom travelled to Cape Town to lend their expertise to business delegations appearing before Parliament. I encourage members to increase their participation in parliamentary processes and to make use of BUSA's Parliamentary Office.

By engaging with the legislature we can ensure that new laws and policies are tailored to the South African economic landscape - yet another way in which business can play a meaningful role in South Africa's development.

Let me thank the BUSA parliamentary staff for the sterling work they continue to do in ensuring interaction between business and Parliament. This newsletter will continue to be a key medium of communicating critical issues for business next year as it has done in 2010.

I wish you a happy and safe festive season and a prosperous new year!

Jerry Vilakazi

BUSA CEO