

# PARLIAMENTARY NEWSWATCH

Keeping Business Informed.

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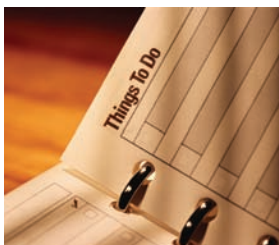
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**BUSA**  
BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA

### Parliamentary Newswatch

Published by the BUSA Parliamentary Office  
First Floor, Graaffs Trust Building  
9 Church Square, Cape Town, 8001  
Enquiries: Lee Padayachee  
021 465 1633  
lee.padayachee@busa.org.za  
Website: www.busa.org.za

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# New Legislation

## Labour Law Amendment Bills

**The Department of Labour is expected to table amendments to South Africa's labour legislation in Parliament in 2011.**

### BUSA STATEMENT ON THE LABOUR AMENDMENT BILLS

While business remains committed to an effective social dialogue about the new labour legislation, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) is still gravely concerned about the economic and business implications of the amendments proposed in the new labour bills.

The amendments proposed have a serious potential to aggravate rather than alleviate unemployment. As outlined in BUSA's recent discussion documentation on a job-rich growth path for South Africa in 2025, the most important issue facing the South African economy today is improving conditions to make greater labour absorption possible.

BUSA had welcomed the fact that Cabinet originally endorsed the Regulatory Impact Assessment Study of the proposals, which has clearly outlined the risks of the draft legislation to business processes and employment. It is disappointing that these findings have been disregarded by the Department of Labour in all four bills and BUSA hopes this will be reconsidered.

Business has also been encouraged by recent official statements which assign a decisive role to the private sector in creating jobs. Our plea as business is therefore that South Africa should not allow bureaucratic limitations to hamper job creation and devising flexible responses to the unemployment challenge. BUSA looks forward to a robust engagement around the proposed legislation in Nedlac.

### The Process Ahead

Nedlac is aiming to conclude negotiations on the proposals by June 2010 at the earliest. The Bills will thereafter be tabled at Parliament where BUSA will address outstanding issues during the parliamentary hearings process.

[View the amendments and Regulatory Impact Assessment](#)

## Immigration Amendment Bill

**Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs opted to start work before the official opening of Parliament on 10 February. This week the Committee held public hearings on the Immigration Amendment Bill [B32-2010].**

The Bill aims to amend the Immigration Act of 2002 and includes proposals to eliminate quota work permits and prohibit immigration practitioners from making applications on behalf of visa applicants. BUSA has submitted comprehensive comments on the Bill.

[Request a copy of the BUSA submission](#)

## State Liability Amendment Bill

**The Department of Justice tabled the State Liability Amendment Bill in Parliament this week. The Bill seeks to regulate the collection of money in terms of court orders issued against the state.**

The Bill has been referred to Parliament's Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio Committee, which has yet to schedule public hearings on the Bill.

[Request a copy of the Bill](#)



# Bills in PARLIAMENT

## Protection of Personal Information Bill

**The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development is expected to resume deliberations on the Protection of Personal Information Bill in February.**

Early last year a technical subcommittee, comprising three members of the Portfolio Committee - one from each of the three largest political parties in Parliament, was set up to manage the task of reviewing and deliberating on each clause of the Bill with the aim of submitting a final draft for the full Portfolio Committee's approval.

The subcommittee last met in August 2010. Subsequent work on the Bill was stalled when the subcommittee was diverted to work on the Protection of Information Bill for the remainder of the year.

According to the Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio Committee Secretary, the subcommittee may resume work on the Protection of Personal Information Bill in the second week of February 2011.

## Companies Amendment Bill

**The Department of Trade and Industry responded this week to submissions made by the public on the Companies Amendment Bill. Public hearings on the Bill were held at Parliament late last year.**

The Bill does not make substantive changes to the Act, but seeks to correct technical errors, such as inconsistencies, incomplete sentences, misalignment and ambiguities, that were discovered after the Act was passed into law in 2008.

[Request a copy of the DTI responses to public submissions](#)



## Companies Act and Consumer Protection Act

**The Companies Act and Consumer Protection Act are due to take effect on 1 April 2011. Both Bills are expected to change the way small and large businesses operate.**

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed at Parliament on Tuesday that the legal framework required for the Bills to take effect would be ready by 1 April 2011. Regulations pertaining to both Acts are in the process of being finalised.

The DTI indicated that it was unlikely that the implementation date for the Bills would be postponed as the date had once before been postponed at the behest of stakeholders. Officials noted that the Minister had consulted widely on the legislation and that "business was being prepared to fine tune their systems in line with the new dispensation".

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

# Climate Change Green Paper

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs is calling for comments on the [National Climate Change Response Green Paper 2010](#).

The response paper was released for written comment by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs late last year.

Interested stakeholders are invited to submit written comments on the Green Paper by 15 February 2011.

The Committee is aiming to hold public hearings in late February or early March 2011. Specific dates and times will be provided after written comments are received.

Comments should be referenced as "National Climate Change Response Green Paper 2010" and be addressed to Ms Tyhileka Madubela, Committee Section, Parliament of RSA, PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000.

[More detail on the call for comments](#)



# Parliamentary Calendar

## 2011

### First Term 18 January - 31 March

<b>President's State of the Nation Address</b>	<b>10 February (19h00)</b>
Debate on President's State of the Nation Address	15-16 February
Reply by President to the debate on the state of the nation Address	17 February
<b>Budget Speech</b>	<b>23 February</b>

### Second Term 12 April - 1 July

National Assembly decision on Appropriation Bill (Budget)	7 June
NCOP decision on Appropriation Bill	28 June

### Third Term 26 July - 23 September

### Fourth Term 11 October - 9 December

Medium Term Budget Policy Statement	October
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