

# PARLIAMENTARY KEEPING BUSINESS INFORMED. NEWSWATCH

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## FEATURES



### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- Protection of Personal Information Bill
- Consumer Protection Act
- Companies Act

PAGE 2



### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- Property Laws: Sectional Titles Management Bill & Community Scheme Ombud Services Bill
- Magistrates Courts Amendment Bill
- Local Government: Municipal Electoral Amendment Bill
- Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill

PAGE 3



### GREEN INDUSTRY: TOWARDS A GREEN FUTURE

We report on a parliamentary briefing on green industries in SA and the drivers and challenges to future growth.

PAGE 4



### THE BPO ON TWITTER: JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We introduce the BPO's Twitter page and answer your questions on social media and business.

PAGE 5



ONE VOICE OF BUSINESS

### PARLIAMENTARY NEWSWATCH

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First Floor, Graaffs Trust Building  
9 Church Square, Cape Town, 8001

Enquiries: Lee Padayachee  
Information Services Manager  
021 465 1633 or lpadayachee@bpo.co.za

Website: [www.busa.org.za](http://www.busa.org.za)

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## Protection of Personal Information Bill

The Sub-committee of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development dealing with the Protection of Personal Information Bill met on 13 August.

The Bill remains under deliberation, although the Sub-committee has expressed its intention to pass the Bill by the end of 2010.

The 13 August meeting was the first convened on the Bill since 4 June. Issues discussed included the status of Regulator staff, the Bill's relation to the Promotion of Access to Information Act, and a draft provision concerning fees. The Committee announced that it intends meeting with the SA Human Rights Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry to discuss the Bill's impact on the Promotion of Access to Information Act and the National Credit Act respectively.

The State Law Advisor is currently modifying a working document of the Bill in line with comments made by the Sub-committee on 13 August. A redrafted working document will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting, which has yet to be scheduled. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications of forthcoming meetings on the Bill, [click here](#).



## Consumer Protection Act

The Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry is scheduled to be briefed on the Consumer Protection Act by the Department of Trade and Industry on 15 September.

The briefing is expected to provide valuable insight into the implementation of the Act.

BUSA will be represented at the meeting and members in Cape Town are encouraged to attend. To assist with logistics, please [email the BUSA offices](#) should you be interested in attending.

### *Meeting details:*

Date: Wednesday, 15 September 2010

Time: 09:00

Venue: Committee Room E249, Second Floor, National Assembly, Parliament

## Companies Amendment Bill

The DTI will brief the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry on the Companies Amendment Bill on Friday, 10 September.

The draft law will amend the Companies Act of 2008; both pieces of legislation are expected to come into effect later this year. The 2008 Act will replace the Companies Act of 1973.

### *Meeting details:*

Date: Friday, 10 September 2010

Time: 08:30

Venue: Committee Room V454, Fourth Floor, Old Assembly Building, Parliament



# Calls for Submissions

The following bills were previewed in [last week's Parliamentary Newswatch](#).

## Property Laws

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements is calling for submissions on the [Sectional Titles Management Bill \[B20-2010\]](#) and [Community Scheme Ombud Services Bill \[B21-2010\]](#).

The deadline for written submissions is 3 September. Public hearings will be held at Parliament on 8 and 10 September 2010.

Submissions may be directed to Ms Koliswa Pasiya, the Committee Secretary: Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, 3rd Floor, 90 Plein St, Cape Town 8000 ; or by email: [kpasiya@parliament.gov.za](mailto:kpasiya@parliament.gov.za); or fax: 086 666 0984.

## Magistrates' Courts

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development is inviting written comments on the [Magistrates' Courts Amendment Bill \[B23-2010\]](#).

Deadline for submissions is 10 September. Public hearings will take place at Parliament on 14 September.

Enquiries and submissions may be directed to Mr V Ramaano, Committee Secretary: Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, 3rd Floor, 90 Plein St, Cape Town 8000; or by email: [vramaano@parliament.gov.za](mailto:vramaano@parliament.gov.za); or fax: 086 565 9219.

## Municipal Elections

The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs invites stakeholders to submit written comments on the [Local Government: Municipal Electoral Amendment Bill \[B27-2010\]](#).

Public hearings will take place on 14 September 2010. The deadline for written submissions is 10 September 2010.

Submissions must be addressed to: The Secretary to Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000, for attention Mr Eddy Mathonsi.

Enquiries: Mr Eddy Mathonsi, tel: 021 403 3826; email: [emathonsi@parliament.gov.za](mailto:emathonsi@parliament.gov.za).

## Local Government Management

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs invites interested stakeholders to make written submissions on the [Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill \[B22-2010\]](#).

Deadline for Submissions is 5 September. Public hearings will take place at Parliament, the details of which have yet to be published.

Submissions and enquiries may be directed to Ms Shereen Cassiem: Committee Secretary - PC on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, 3rd Floor, 90 Plein St, Cape Town 8000; email: [scassiem@parliament.gov.za](mailto:scassiem@parliament.gov.za); tel: 021 403 3769; or fax: 086 623 6312.



## Towards a Green Future for SA

On 24 August, the Industrial Development Corporation appeared before the Select Committee on Economic Development to discuss the development of green technologies in South Africa.

As a developing country, the growth of green technologies can be a relatively expensive enterprise. However, investment may be worth the effort as the green industry is a relative newcomer in the international market. South Africa has the potential to catch up to the latest developments and become a leader in the field.

The IDC believes that local production opportunities can be exploited if South Africa becomes a significant buyer in the sector. Their presentation focussed on the main drivers and barriers to the growth of green industries:

### Solar Water Heaters

Given our abundance of sun, solar water heaters (SWHs) and heat pumps are one of SA's primary sources of alternative energy. Growth in the sector is being driven largely by hikes in electricity prices as well as government's existing commitments to the sector in the form of incentives and programs.

Barriers to further growth include a lack of local manufacturing capacity, the poor quality of locally manufactured heaters, and a potential lack of qualified electricians and plumbers to install SWHs. Uncertainty over the Department of Energy's new rebate program for SWHs has also led to existing projects being placed on hold.

The IDC has approved funding for local manufacturers and installers of SWHs. The IDC is also engaging with international development finance institutions to source more funds for green investments.

### Waste to Energy

Sources of waste that can be converted to energy include: municipal solid waste, municipal sewage, landfill gas, animal and organic waste. As with SWHs, rising electricity tariffs is a key driver of this sector. Supply security and obligation to reduce waste levels are collateral drivers of growth in this sector. However, the cost of investment, lack of finance and constraints on the sale of electricity, particularly uncertainty over the contractual framework of Power Purchase Agreements with Eskom, are proving to be barriers to growth. The IDC is currently exploring further development in this sector.

### Recycling and Waste Management

The minimal regulation of recycling is a key driver of the industry. Recyclable products include: municipal waste, paper, cans, bottles, plastic, and scrap metal, as well as medical, chemical and electronic waste. Direct linkages with waste to energy projects make the recycling industry further attractive.

Acting against the industry is the high cost of recycling products when compared to the use of virgin material. Additionally, the industry is still considered 'dirty' and hazardous, requires a high degree of skills training, and returns on investments are generally low.

### Wind Power

Government's REFIT (renewable energy feed-in tariff) programme has been the key driver of what is hoped to be large-scale investment in wind power. As part of the REFIT incentive programme, which applies to wind, solar, hydro and landfill energy projects, investors will be guaranteed a healthy set price/unit rate for a period of 20 years. However, slow progress with REFIT implementation is proving to be a barrier in itself. Onerous and lengthy environmental impact assessments are also hindering growth.

For the full presentation, [click here](#).



## Follow us on Twitter

### Join the Conversation

No longer the domain of teenagers and technophiles, web 2.0 platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and blogs are increasingly being used as communication tools by businesses. In fact, a 2010 study by international PR company Burson-Marsteller showed that 79% of global Fortune 100 companies are making use of at least 1 social media platform to communicate with people.

The most commonly used platform is Twitter - 65% of global Fortune 100 companies reported using it.

#### So what is Twitter?

Twitter is a micro-blogging site. 'Micro' because only messages of up to 140 characters can be posted at a time. Using Twitter, subscribers can publish short instant messages to the web. The benefit of Twitter is that it allows for instant electronic communication, without the distribution of reams of emails. Twitter is easily accessible on mobile phones and laptops.

### The BPO on Twitter

Following the web 2.0 trend, the BUSA Parliamentary Office is launching its first Twitter page: [www.twitter.com/LeeAtBUSA](http://www.twitter.com/LeeAtBUSA)

Our Twitter feed will have the very latest news on developments at Parliament affecting Business.

We encourage members to join the conversation by posting replies on Twitter.



**LeeAtBUSA**

**#PPIBill:** See Parliamentary Newswatch #17 out this week for an update on the status on the Protection of Personal Information Bill  
about 5 hours ago via web

**#CompaniesAct:** DTI briefing on Companies Amendment Bill: 10 Sep 2010, 08:30: Committee Room V454, Old Assembly Building, Parliament  
about 5 hours ago via web

**#ConsumerProtectionAct:** DTI briefing on implementation of Act: 15 Sep 2010, 9am: committee room E249, National Assembly Building, Parliament  
about 5 hours ago via web

Tomorrow's Justice Portfolio Committee meeting has been rescheduled to 10 August. #PPIBill



### Twitter FAQs

#### Do I need a twitter account to view a twitter page?

No. All twitter pages are open to the public and can be viewed and bookmarked like a regular website. You can also subscribe to RSS feeds of any twitter page.

#### Do I need to know the twitter lingo?

No. Twitter is simply a tool to send or view messages.

To learn about twitter terms like retweets (RT), hashtags (#) and @username, [click here](#).

#### Is Twitter time-consuming?

Since posts are limited to 140 characters they take only a few moments to read or post.

#### Can I reply to posts/messages on twitter?

Yes, but only if you have a twitter account.