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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BUSA RESPONSE TO BLACK MANAGEMENT
FORUM (BMF) RESIGNATION**

Business Unity South Africa is the overall umbrella business organisation in South Africa, which was established in 2003. Our membership comprises 61 national business organisations that span the categories of industry associations, corporate interests, the chamber movement, as well as professional organisations. In sum, we represent in excess of 80% of South African business by value, made up by big and small business (in fact thousands of small businesses), both in the established and emerging categories.

As the country's main representative business lobby group we represent the consensus views of our membership on a broad range of policy fronts. As such, on-going interaction with our membership to facilitate consensus is therefore very important to BUSA. It is always regrettable if our membership cannot reach common ground amongst themselves, but where this occurs it requires commitment from all parties to overcome.

Against this background, it is unfortunate and unnecessary that the Black Management Forum decided to withdraw their organisation's membership from BUSA. We believe that a strong commitment to non-racialism and the transformation of our society is a responsibility that all South Africans must share and is something to which BUSA, for its part, has always been firmly committed. Backed by a solid and expanding membership base, our efforts in this regard will continue to strengthen, as it has over the years of our existence, since our establishment.

BUSA therefore continues with its advocacy and representational role in a number of very important areas such as economic growth and job creation – areas of concern not only to business, but society as a whole. We are, for instance, currently deeply engaged:

- in support of the New Growth Path process which depends heavily on contributions from business and intense participation of all our members;
- on proposed amendments to the tax laws which have far-reaching implications for BBBEE;
- in social dialogue processes at Nedlac;
- in addressing global trade challenges;
- in structures like the National Anti-Corruption Forum;
- in spearheading SMME development;
- on finding a solution on the intended imposition of urban e-tolls which have far-reaching implications for business and commuters across the country.

BUSA remains committed to continuously improving the way we are structured, the way we operate and the way we interact with our members to best serve their interests. A specific evaluation to that end has been underway for some time. Our members have been encouraged to freely engage with all structures of the organisation and to provide input in respect of these efforts. This remains open to all constituents, including the BMF.

Ends.

6 July 2011.