

MEDIA STATEMENT

BUSA RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT EQUITY (CEE) 9th ANNUAL REPORT (2008 – 2009)

BUSA welcomes the Commission on the presentation of its Annual Report.

BUSA also welcomes that the workforce profile data is provided separately for Government and the private sector in the report.

BUSA applauds the employment equity roadshows referred to in the Annual report and participated actively as a partner in the process. The process of the amendment of the employment equity forms and the Regulations were greatly welcomed by Business. This would no doubt facilitate the process of easier employment equity reporting to the Department of Labour. Business will be engaging in further deliberations arising out of the social dialogue process at NEDLAC, on proposed amendments to the Employment Equity legislation.

BUSA notes the observations following the DG review and employers are encouraged to consider the workplace environment and economically active population when setting their numerical goals.

It is acknowledged that South Africa has the enabling legislative and policy framework in place to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities. It is however noted that people with disabilities remain marginalised in terms of employment prospects, and the representation of people with disabilities is concentrated in the lower skills levels.

The need for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with the provisions of the existing Employment Equity Act is supported by BUSA and will be a key in enhancing the transformation process.

BUSA recognizes the important role that companies need to play in ensuring compliance with the Employment Equity Act.

BUSA is pleased to note that there has been an increase in the number of reports received and analysed since 2006, and has embarked upon communicating to members the option of online reporting.

BUSA is committed to promoting Employment Equity and intends to pursue this commitment in re-energising Business in Employment Equity programmes.