

## **MEDIA STATEMENT – IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**

BUSA is encouraged by the State of the Nation Address as tabled by President Zuma, on the evening of the 11th February 2010. We concur that it is now crucial to focus on economic recovery, growth and employment in the aftermath of the global economic crisis. The current realities require equal partnerships amongst all sectors of society in responding to the necessary call for action

The overall theme of improving government performance through the introduction of clear performance measurement instruments can only enhance public sector efficiency. Business will make further submissions on the role of the private sector in improving service delivery and outcomes.

We are pleased to hear of the renewed emphasis on human capital investment which should underpin long-term competitiveness and productivity gains. The infrastructure programme is also expected to further stimulate domestic demand and its implementation can be facilitated through increased use of public private sector partnerships. BUSA believes it would have been appropriate to address some of the underlying competitiveness issues which continue to negate long term prosperity and job creation.

The deregulation of the Electricity market, through the establishment of Independent System Operator will increase private sector participation in the electricity sector and is most supported. This measure combined with the development of an Integrated Resource Plan under the guidance of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Energy should improve security of energy supply in South Africa. We eagerly expect details around the regulatory changes which are necessary to ensure progress on this issue.

Business renews its commitment to partnerships with other social partners, in not only wanting to better outcomes for all South Africans; but we remain committed to Madiba's ideals of reconciliation and nation building.