



BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA (BUSAs)

MEDIA STATEMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOB LOSSES

Commenting on Statistics SA's latest employment figures for 1 Q 2009 of 180, 000 jobs lost in that period BUSAs says –

Quote:

BUSAs is deeply concerned at the latest unemployment figures released by Statistics SA, which continue to reflect the serious economic contraction which SA is experiencing as a result of the global recession. This especially underscores the fact that, unless there is restraint and moderation in current wage negotiations, the rate of job losses will simply be aggravated in the months ahead. While business will continue to explore all possible alternatives to retrenchments, if firms are unable to finance higher wage bills, this is likely to intensify job losses.

BUSAs believes that the latest job statistics also emphasise the need to urgently implement the remaining employment measures in the 'Framework Response to the Global Economic Crisis' released by the Presidency in February 2009 and to which business is also committed. These include steps – such as training lay-offs and accelerated expanded public works programs – to assist in ameliorating the situation.

BUSAs also hopes that, as another important element in appropriate counter-cyclical measures, the Reserve Bank will announce a further cut in interest rates at the conclusion of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting tomorrow.

ENDS

24 June 2009

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