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BUSINESS WANTS ACTION, NOT WORDS, ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced a R500bn package to shore up the economy and support individuals and business that have lost their income, with part of the money to come from redirecting existing budgets. He also aims to galvanise R2.3-trillion in new infrastructure investment over the next decade that could create more than 1.8-million jobs.

Business groups have spent four months drafting a plan to get the economy back on track, but confidence that the state will implement is 'very low.'

Business for SA (B4SA) said they expect the economy to contract as much as 10% this year and has spent the past four months drafting a plan to get it back on track. About 250 experts worked for free on the proposals that could potentially add R1-trillion to GDP, but they have gained limited traction with the authorities so far.

Cas Coovadia, CEO of Business Unity SA (BUSAS), said the business groups had supported the need for a lockdown. If all the work business has done on how to orchestrate a revival "goes to waste because of inaction, history will judge us", he said. "The ball really does lie in the government's court. Leadership has got to come from the government."

The B4SA plan calls on the government to fulfil long-standing pledges to make it easier to do business, clamp down on graft, and overhaul badly managed state-owned enterprises. The group opposes tinkering with the Reserve Bank's mandate or threats to its independence and dictating pension funds on how to invest.

Martin Kingston who heads B4SA's steering committee and is deputy president of Busa. said "It is not as though we don't know what decisions need to be taken and what then needs to be implemented, where there is scepticism or concern among the leadership of business is that leopards don't change their spots. The hallmark of inaction and indecision is going to carry on."

📍BUSASite: <https://org.busaza/>; Twitter, @BusinessUnitySA; and Facebook, @BusinessUnitySouthAfrica

STRATEGIC SPOTLIGHT

CRIME AND CORRUPTION HARM VULNERABLE CITIZENS THE MOST BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA (BUSA) CALLS FOR SWIFT ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THEFT

BUSA CEO, Cas Coovadia, commented: “Corruption kills. It kills nurses, doctors, commuters, and citizens relying on fake PPE or without any protection because of corruption and theft. Corruption diverts funds from public services to private pockets leaving the most vulnerable in our society at risk. And when funds meant for struggling businesses are stolen or contracts diverted to cronies – then workers go hungry and legitimate business go bankrupt. “Crime and corruption have a disproportionate impact on the poor, severely reducing access to services like health, public safety and education. Tackling corruption is at the heart of our ambitious plans to reform the economy for all. Only then will all South Africans, especially our most vulnerable, participate in our nation’s post pandemic re-set.”

BUSA, together with the Black Business Council, established Business for South Africa (B4SA), which has provided a platform for the South African business sector to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Research and analysis from B4SA’s recently released Economic Recovery Strategy concludes that corruption ranks as one of the top impediments to economic stability, and undermines BBBEE and inclusive growth, particularly following Covid-related economic shutdowns. This situation has been compounded by many years of economic decline, leading to ratings agency downgrades.

The Economic Recovery Strategy, which urgently calls on all parties in South Africa to cease any form of fraud, highlights crime and corruption as priority focus areas requiring urgent action. Only then can we deliver an inclusive and accelerated economic recovery. There is no doubt corruption impedes investment and service delivery, with a disastrous effect on growth, jobs and public health. There must be a zero-tolerance policy on corruption. We must urgently address procurement corruption and ensure accountability for public funds allocated to supporting small business development.

South Africa must immediately implement all measures available to confront corruption. It is important to utilise both human and financial resources more effectively and address corruption through the concerted attention of both governments and businesses. Honest, competent, and dedicated staff using the using the latest technology and working with our world-class financial services sector, can quickly turn the tide. Then we can attract investment and grow rapidly.

A vigorous anti-corruption agenda will not be complete without removing all forms of corruption, from public institutions and private firms, and across all sectors that facilitate bribes and criminal transactions. BUSA will continue to demonstrate a zero-tolerance approach to any of its member associations, and their members, shown to be involved in any corrupt activities.

“SA is in danger of becoming a country in which society has lost its moral compass and corruption and looting becomes the norm. We cannot allow this to happen. Leaders across society must call out corruption consistently, irrespective of the parties involved. Government, through President Ramaphosa, must be unequivocal, publicly, in both condemning corruptions as abhorrent and then taking swift, consistent, and ruthlessly action to against perpetrators no matter whether they are in political parties, government, the private sector or other organs of civil society. We appreciate the need to investigate and build strong cases against corrupting parties, but we urge that additional resources be devoted to this and that we soon see people in orange overalls.”

Only a concerted and collaborative effort – with a focussed crackdown on corruption and theft – will lead South Africans to shared prosperity.

Corruption kills. It kills nurses, doctors, commuters, and citizens relying on fake PPE or without any protection because of corruption and theft. Corruption diverts funds from public services to private pockets leaving the most vulnerable in our society at risk.



Econpol & Subcommittees

BUSA sub-committee on Trade, Transport & Logistics virtual meeting scheduled to take place on **11 August 2020** took place chaired by Juanita Maree she opened the meeting and welcomed those present at the end of the meeting he indicated that the next sub-committee is scheduled to take place **12 November 2020**.

1. TRADE IN SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Olivier Serrão reported that the work of the Trade in Service Working Group was still on-going and indicated that developments would be communicated with the subcommittee members in due course.

2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

In view of Deidré Penfold's absence, it was agreed that this agenda item be parked and be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting, if applicable.

3. SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY

3.1. The verbal report presented by the Chair on Supply Chain Security was noted.

3.2. The Chair reported that the B4SA workstream on Supply Chain Security had made significant progress in its attempts to find ways to maximise ports efficiency and identifying bottlenecks and constraints associated with the movements of goods through Airfreight and road freight.

3.3. The Chair indicated that the workstream had further developed new initiatives to address the supply chain security.

4. BOTSWANA TRANSPORTATION ISSUE

4.1. Gavin Kelly reported that there had been a media statement released by Botswana government official about a week ago indicating that all the movement of freight should be done its citizens and Botswana registered freight.

4.2. Gavin Kelly further reported that the Freight Industry was concerned by the media statement and was still looking for answers about the facts of the statement.

4.3. It was proposed that South Africa should check if the statement was true and applicable to all countries.

Action

The Chair undertook to share similar information with the subcommittee.

BUSA sub-committee on Trade, Transport & Logistics continues

Action

Following Gavin Kelly's report, it was agreed that BUSA would ask the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) for clarity and intervention.

LOGISTICS & TRANSPORT

5. AARTO

5.1 The reports presented by Gavin Kelly on AARTO (Annexures 2A-2D) were noted.

5.2. Gavin Kelly reported that since the last subcommittee there had been some movement from the Department of Transport (DoT) regarding the AARTO Regulations.

5.3. Gavin Kelly further reported that BUSA had written a letter of concern to the Minister of Transport with regards to the implementation of AARTO and the sudden postponement of its implementation.

5.4. Gavin Kelly indicated that BUSA had written to its members (as per Annexure 2D) to ask for inputs on how they were feeling about AARTO in general and what steps should be taken by the industry or business.

5.5. Gavin Kelly further indicated that the Department of Transport had formally tabled the AARTO Regulations to Nedlac for deliberation and indicated the Nedlac Task Team to engage on AARTO Regulations had been established and waiting for a date for the first meeting.

Action

BUSA to write a letter to the Minister and Director General (DG) of Transport emphasizing the importance of the public consultations and the Nedlac process.

6. ROAD TO RAIL STRATEGY

6.1. The report presented by Tyson Sibanda was noted.

6.2. Henk Langenhoven indicated that the Mining Industry had challenges with Transnet's railway network impacting the movement of its products.

6.3. John Purchase reported that AGBIZ had a fruitful meeting with the new Transnet Head of Operation and undertook to share the contact details and facilitate the meeting between BUSA and Transnet.

Action

BUSA to circulate the Final Research Report on the Movement of Freight from Road to Rail

Action

John Purchase undertook to share the contact details of the Transnet's new Head of Operations and facilitate a meeting between BUSA and Transnet.

BUSBA sub-committee on Trade, Transport & Logistics continues

Action

Members of the subcommittee to submit issues / topics to be discussed and /or addressed at the meeting between BUSBA and Transnet.

7. HIGH CUBE CONTAINERS

7.1. The report presented by Stephanie van der Walt was noted.

7.2. Stephanie van der Walt reported that the Fresh Fruit Exporters Forum had sent a letter to the Department of Transport and the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Transport and there had not been a response from both sides.

7.3. Stephanie van der Walt indicated that AGBIZ would follow-up on the letter sent both to Parliament and DoT.

7.4. Stephanie van der Walt indicated that AGBIZ was currently busy drafting a legal opinion on how it should move forward in this regard.

8. EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF LICENCES

The BUSBA letter sent to DoT on the Extension of Validity of Licences and the response thereof were noted.

9. BORDER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (BMA)

9.1. Catherine Grant reported that the President had signed the Border Management Authority Bill.

9.2. Catherine Grant further reported that the implementation protocol is still yet to be developed.

9.3. Catherine Grant indicated that BUSBA had a fruitful meeting with SARS on BMA.

9.4. Catherine Grant reported that SARS indicated that it was co-operating with the Department of Home Affairs on the implementation of BMA.

9.5. Catherine Grant indicated that SARS stated that there were still a lot of unresolved issues on how BMA will work in terms of the departments and agencies that had retained their degree of independence.

9.6. Catherine Grant stated that at the meeting BUSBA also raised its issues and concerns on BMA and they were considered.

9.7. Catherine Grant further stated that SARS indicated its willingness to engage BUSBA further on the implementation protocol.

Action

BUSBA to schedule a follow-up meeting with SARS on BMA to be held on 07 September 2020.

BUSA sub-committee on Trade, Transport & Logistics continues

10. CUSTOMS & EXCISE PREFERRED TRADE / AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR FORUM

The reports presented by the Chair, on Customs and Excise Preferred Trade / Authorised Economic Operator Forum were noted.

Action

The Chair undertook to request a short summary from government on how Authorised Economic Operators will work to enable sectors to apply it correctly.

Action

Michael Lawrence to present at the next subcommittee meeting on the Master Plans (with evidence from the Retail and Clothing Master Plan) indicating the linkages with AEOs to help other sectors to take advantage of their sectoral Master Plans.

Action

BUSA to schedule the AEO Workshop on the Brazilian Experience and Possible Lessons for South Africa to be held on 27 August 2020.

11. NEDLAC TESELICO REPORT

11.1. The report, presented by Catherine Grant, was noted.

11.2. Catherine Grant reported that government was working on the Digital / ICT Master Plan lead by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI).

11.3. Catherine Grant further reported that government was working on the AFCFTA e-commerce negotiations.

11.4. Catherine Grant indicated that the DTIC was working on reviving the Digital Trade Working Group and BUSA was working on its position to be tabled at the Digital Trade Working Group.

11.5. Louise volunteered to be part of the Digital Trade Working Group.

11.6. Catherine Grant further indicated that business had expressed its concerns on the country's position on e-commerce.

11.7. Catherine Grant reported that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was in a process of finding a replacement of the current WTO Director General who had resigned effective on 1 September 2020.

11.8. Catherine Grant reported that there had been a meeting scheduled between India and SACU officials in mid-September 2020 to exchange data and government had undertaken to engage Teselico on the revised modalities.

11.9. Catherine Grant indicated that there had been a proposed AFCFTA Summit to be held in end of November 2020 to discuss the AFCFTA implementation date.

11.10. Catherine Grant further indicated that there would be a South African Ministerial dialogue with the European Union on Poultry Products and the Ban on the Sale of Alcohol.

11.11. Catherine Grant reported that there would be a review of the SADC – EU EPA and government had urged constituencies to think of the issues to be brought to the table for discussion.



BUSBA sub-committee on Trade, Transport & Logistics continues

Action

Following Michael Lawrence’s concern regarding Business’s capacity and resourcing at Teselico and other trade-related fora, it was agreed that BUSBA should review and revise its Teselico and Trade & Industry Chamber representation based, inter alia, on the sectors of the economy they represent and expertise.

12. BUSBA STUDIES ON SA / US TRADE & INVESTMENT, AND SA’S POSITIONING IN THE WTO

12.1. Olivier Serrão reported that the first draft of the SA’s positioning in the WTO had been circulated to BUSBA members.

12.2. Catherine Grant indicated that SA’s position in the WTO had been revised and would be sent to BUSBA members for input.

12.3. Catherine Grant indicated that there had been a good progress in putting a strong business position or view on the trade issues.

Action

BUSBA to circulate the revised SA’s positioning paper in the WTO for input.

13. AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

13.1. The report by Catherine Grant on the African Council Founding Documents was noted.

13.2. Catherine Grant reported that BUSBA’s inputs on the African Business Council Founding Documents were considered.

13.3. Catherine Grant further reported the documents on how the African Business Council will function were expected to be released soon.

14. WOMEN IN TRADE

14.1. Michael Lawrence reported that there was a need for business to create initiatives to empower or include women in trade given the ongoing issues related to Gender-based Violence (GBV) and lack of women in trade.

14.2. Michael Lawrence undertook to create a working group and co-ordinate the work of the working group.

14.3. Louise Wiggett, Stephanie van der Walt, and Farida Khan led by Michael Lawrence volunteered to be part of the Women in Trade Working Group.

Action

Michael Lawrence undertook to create a working group on Women in Trade and co-ordinate the initiatives thereof. BUSBA undertook to advise on where within BUSBA structures the working group would be located.





Socpol & SubCET

BUSA Standing Committee on Social Policy and sub-committee on Education & Training virtual meeting scheduled to take place on **05 August 2020** took place chaired by, Mr Kaizer Moyane he opened the meeting and welcomed those present, at the end of the meeting the chair indicated that the next sub-committee is scheduled to take place on **11 November 2020**.

Socpol

1. STATUS REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Annexure 2

1.2. It was noted that the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology had submitted names regarding the newly appointed statutory body representatives. A discrepancy was noted with regards to the National Skills Authority (NSA) appointments. The Department was noted to have reverted and advised BUSA secretariat that Mr. Mustak Ally and Ms. Pamela Ramagaga have been appointed as Business representatives on the National Skills Authority. The remaining seats have been awarded to the Black Business Council and one seat remains vacant. The office awaits a response from the Department regarding the filling of the remaining vacancy.

Decision:

The office will circulate an official note to the Committee detailing the names of the newly appointed officials.

The BUSA office will revert to the Sub-committee on the progress of the vacant NSA seat.

2. STATE OF SOCIAL POLICY

2.1. The issue of corruption within the state, both in the business sector and in government during the COVID-19 pandemic was raised as a concern. Members acknowledged that the country is dealing with the novel COVID-19 virus but also has the responsibility of working with the public sector in rooting out the unethical behaviour. It was noted that this item was raised to the President of the Republic during a NEDLAC Rapid Response meeting.

2.2. It was noted that Productivity SA needs to be provided with an opportunity to report on the IMD World Competitiveness Global Report that was recently released. The report details the need to focus on Productivity SA and the role of organised business as related to the increased opportunity to become productive. It was noted that the Productivity SA representatives are invited to quarterly meetings and are reporting to Committee and their report is tabled within the statutory bodies reports.

Decision:

The BUSA office will provide Productivity SA with an opportunity to report on the IMD World Competitiveness Global Report.

Mr Mthundzi Mdwaba of Productivity SA reported that there was a robust engagement convened on the IMD Competitiveness Index. It is significant for us to note that South Africa's productivity index has been declining over the last ten years. It is worth noting that Productivity SA has put together a post COVID-19 strategic programme which will be presented to the Economic cluster.

BUSA Standing Committee on Social Policy continues

It was reported that the Productivity SA board had proposed a Turnaround Solutions programme. This was subsequently suspended by the board due to the UIF's inability to fund the programme. The new board has lifted the suspension as the UIF has now pledged 104 Million in funding to Productivity SA. There is work already being done on how to capacitate small businesses and align it to the work of economic recovery.

2.3. It was noted that there is a need to add to the agenda, feedback on the Health Working Group and subsequently address all the action items that pertain to it. There was a concern noted on the lack of consistent feedback, resulting in a channel breakdown and loss of information. Challenges were noted with regards to finding diary availability from the Health Working Group and the Business for South Africa Health Stream lead as well as a lack of activity worth noting.

Decision:

The office will circulate, once ascertained, an engagement time to discuss the work of the Health Working Group moving forward.

3. SOCIAL POLICY WORKPLAN

3.1. The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill, the Road to Rail work, the Expropriation Bill and the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill have now been added onto the SocPol Workplan matrix.

3.2. In the meeting of 13th of May 2020, it was proposed that the Business for South Africa work done by BUSA members be included in the Workplan for information and captured so the committee can track and report on the engagements. A new B4SA item has been tracked accordingly into the workplan.

The BUSA CEO's office had convened a special meeting between the B4SA members and the BUSA members. The purpose of the meeting was to establish where the work of B4SA is going as well as how it can be institutionalised into BUSA work. The office of the CEO has requested commentary from members on how this can be taken forward.

Decision:

Elements of the B4SA work will be included into the Social Policy Workplan.

The office will update the SocPol Workplan taking into consideration the final consolidated input from members.

4. TRANSFORMATION, INCLUSIVE ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

4.1. It was reported that the work of the Jobs Summit Framework Agreement has been reprioritised to incorporate elements of the B4SA Economic Recovery Plan.

BUSA Standing Committee on Social Policy continues

5. PREDICTABLE, CERTAIN AND ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT.

5.1. It was noted that the NEDLAC Task Team has finalised its work and has been signed off on the NEDLAC Report.

5.2. Feedback from Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill

5.3. It was noted that the NEDLAC Task Team has finalised its work and has been signed off on the NEDLAC Report. Subsequently the report has been finalised. The Bill has now been tabled in the Portfolio Committee.

6. AFFORDABLE, COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

6.1. The Comprehensive Social Security report was noted. It was noted that the NEDLAC process is approaching the end of its internal process and that there is research being commissioned in this regard. A white or green paper is envisaged to be produced in the early stages of 2021.

6.2. National Health Insurance Task Team

6.3. Members expressed discomfort on the lack of feedback on the National Health Insurance process. This discomfort was highlighted in the considering COVID-19 as well as the immense work that has gone into establishing a business position to support the NEDLAC process. Members tabled questions on whether the business position would be re-looked at and where that work will be reconvened.

It was reported that NEDLAC had sent a request to BUSA secretariat to find out whether there is an appetite to reconvene NHI deliberations. The Business constituency had responded that there was an interest in continuing the work. There has been no progress in this regard. The office is awaiting a response from NEDLAC. It was noted that the COVID-19 pandemic will shape the nature of the National Health Insurance work from all constituencies. The process is noted to have come to a grounding halt.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & TRAINING

7.1. Mandatory SETA Grant Case

It was noted that the Sub-Committee on Education and Training had its quarterly meeting. It was noted that an engagement with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and their industrial envoy was convened on 26 May 2020. Post the meeting, SubCET had requested the Department to submit a written proposal concerning the Mandatory Grant. There was no response received within the agreed timeframe. Not having received a response, another special SubCET meeting was convened. Subsequently, the office wrote a letter to the Minister, setting a deadline of 5 August 2020 for a request for clarity with regards to the negotiations that had not gone according to the agreements made in the meeting of 26 May 2020. There has been no response from the Department thus far. The BUSA office is in a process of legal consultation on how much it would cost to take the matter forward should the need arise.

BUSA Standing Committee on Social Policy continues

7.2. Future of Work Webinar Series

As part of the Decent Work Country Programme, NEDLAC, is currently putting together a series of engagements that will take place on the Future of Work initiative. The meetings will be open to representatives from BUSA. The office is in the process of finalising topics that will be covered in the series. The series will provide members with an opportunity to engage on the rapidly developing future of work debates and how the future of work agenda has been brought forward due to the nature of the pandemic. The members were alerted that the nature of the proceedings will be very rapid as there is an appetite to commence the work urgently.

Decision:

Once the work has been finalised and the agenda is ready, the BUSA office will share the necessary information with SocPOL which will enable members to participate in the relevant webinars.

7.3. It was noted that The Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation has recently released a document on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide within the PSET and Education and Training.

Decision:

It was noted that SubCET and the BUSA secretariat would consider a way to review this document and start discussions on the way forward.

8. COOPERATION AND INFLUENCE IN SADC, AFRICA AND GLOBALLY

Update on Just Transition

8.1. Ms. Jarredine Morris, the BUSA Energy and Environment Policy Manager tabled a presentation on the work of the Just Transition. It was noted that BUSA had started work to develop a BUSA position on the Just Transition. A document was circulated to all policy desks for input. The document was thereafter endorsed by the board as an evolving position paper and a just transition working group was established in the ambit of the Economic Policy desk.

It was noted that a report will henceforth be tabled to SocPol and SubCET on a quarterly basis.

It was agreed that BUSA would establish two task teams to take the work forward. One for policy mapping and one for education and skills.

Decision:

The BUSA office will endeavour to circulate the slides pertaining to the incoming work of the Just Transition.

The BUSA office will call for active participation from SubCET and SocPOL once the work has been fully established.

BUSA Standing Committee on Social Policy continues

IOE/ILO Report

8.2. Mr. Mthunzi Mdwaba tabled a report on behalf of the IOE and ILO. He reported on government related work by the governing body of the ILO. There is planning underway on the possibility of Governing Body in October 2020.

There are approximately twelve ILO conventions that are pending ratification. It was noted that the work has not moved forward due to the pandemic. The BUSA office has requested a status update and an updated list on the progress in this regard.

It was announced at the DWCP meeting of 22 July 2020 that the SADC has nominated a single candidate for ILO directorship in 2022. Congratulations were tendered to Mthunzi Mdwaba.

9. SOCIAL POLICY OPERATIONS

9.1. It was noted that this agenda item had been covered previously on the agenda. The work of B4SA will be captured as a standing agenda item once it has been institutionalised.

9.2. Workshop of the NPC on the Review of the NDP in Meeting Its Labour Market Objectives – Annexure 9

10. NEDLAC

10.1. Members raised questions from a policy perspective around concerns of the Government planning to restrict the employment of foreign nationals in certain sectors and make amendments to the Employment Equity act. It was noted that the Business Representatives who sit on the Employment Services board have line of sight into the draft regulations on foreign nationals. The Department of Employment and Labour is noted to be looking at the National Labour policy. The BUSA Employment Services Board representatives committed to keeping the committee abreast of all developments.

10.2. It was reported that The Labour Market Chamber meets quarterly. The bulk of the work of the chamber has been taken over by the NEDLAC Rapid Response Team and its relevant sub structures. It was noted that there is an ongoing need to gradually recapacitate BUSA traditional structures

10.3. It was noted that The Development Chamber and Labour Market Chamber had a joint meeting that established the need for a Sub-Committee on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The first meeting was convened on 3 August 2020. A follow up action arising from that meeting is the establishment of a Convention 190 task team to review the steps that will be taken to ratify the Convention.

The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill work has been underway for several months, with a total of four meetings having been convened. The task team had its penultimate meeting on 27 July 2020. A 1-aside task team has been established to break the deadlock. Mr Mustak Ally serves as the Business representative on the one aside, thereafter a draft NEDLAC report will be tabled.

BUSA Standing Committee on Social Policy continues

The Rapid Response Task Team meetings have a few sub-committees whose work continues to unfold. The Public Space Management Task Team which was established to deal with Civil Society's recommendations on how to deal with COVID - 19 in public spaces has completed its work with Civil Society and Government to continue engaging on a bilateral basis. The work of the task team would then reconvene as and when the need arose.

The Social Development Task Team engagements have reached conclusion. The purpose of the engagements was to deliberate on social grants. Social partners are now receiving weekly reports on an ADHOC basis on grant pay-outs and food parcels.

The Sub-committee dealing with banks, pension funds and medical aids has had no engagements recently. It was detailed in the last meeting that the Micro Lenders Association of South Africa be requested to present. The association put on record that they had no data and made a commitment to report on measures to be put in place to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

10.4. It was noted that the Governance Task Team members will recall that EXCO had established the Governance Task Team to reevaluate whether the structure of NEDLAC and founding documents are fit for purpose. The work is reported to be ongoing. An agreement was reached, that scenario planning will be done for the country and will be customised specifically to NEDLAC and taken back to EXCO.

It was reported that the Annual NEDLAC Summit that was scheduled to take place in September 2020 has been postponed due to **COVID-19 restrictions. The proposed dates will be communicated in due time.**

SubCET

1. Workshop on the Future of Work

It was noted that the first tranche of the CCBA funding has not been received as yet due to contracting that needs to be revisited due to COVID-19 and lockdown, therefore the office has not been able to commence on the CCBA work as of yet. These matters are marked amber and in progress until such a time as the office can ascertain finality on them

2. SETA Grant Case

It was noted that post the discussion during the special SubCET meeting, a briefing was convened with BUSA CEO, Mr Cas Coovadia. The feedback from the meeting, as well as the Sub-Committee's position on the SETA Grant Case was tabled. Subsequently, the office wrote a letter to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, setting a deadline of 5 August 2020 for a request for clarity with regards to the negotiations that have not gone according to the agreements made in the meeting of 26 May 2020. There has been no response from the Department thus far. The BUSA office is in a process of consulting on how much it would cost to take the matter forward should the need arise.

Decision:

The office will revert to the Sub-Committee on Education and Training and other members on how funds will be raised to take the matter forward.

BUSA sub-committee on Education & Training continues

3. Skills Development Holiday Levy

The BUSA National Skills Authority (NSA) representative, Mr Mustak Ally, reported that the Minister of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation convened a meeting with the NSA board. One of the pressing issues that was discussed is the impact of the Skills Development levy on the national skills system and the work that needs to be done in this regard. It was reported that the Minister is awaiting advice from the NSA so that the work can commence.

4. COVID-19/B4SA UPDATE

4.1. Ms. Sino Moabalobelo, reported that the BUSA CEO's office had convened a special meeting between the B4SA members and the BUSA members. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the work of B4SA as well as how it can be institutionalised into BUSA work. The office of the CEO has requested commentary from members on how this can be taken forward.

Decision:

Elements of the B4SA work will be included into the Social Policy Workplan.

5. BASIC EDUCATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL

5.1. The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill work has been underway for several months, with a total of four meetings having been convened. The task team had its penultimate meeting on 27 July 2020. A 1-aside task team has been established to break the deadlock. Mr Mustak Ally serves as the Business representative on the one side, thereafter a draft NEDLAC report will be tabled.

6. STATUTORY BODY REPORTS

The Statutory Bodies Report was noted. The Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation was noted to have reverted and advised BUSA secretariat that Mr Mustak Ally, Ms. Pamela Ramagaga, Mr Pule Mokoena and Mr Tommy Oliphant have been appointed as Business representatives on the National Skills Authority. It was noted that one seat remains vacant. The office awaits a response from the Department regarding the filling of the remaining vacancy.

Decision:

The BUSA office will revert to the Sub-committee on the progress of the vacant NSA seat.

7. NATIONAL SKILLS AUTHORITY

7.1. It was noted that the National Skills Authority has held two webinars in partnership with Mail & Guardian on the COVID-19 Impact on Education, Skills Development & Training. As previously mentioned, the NSA convened a strategic meeting with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on Skills Development and Training in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gradual opening of institutions offering

BUSA sub-committee on Education & Training continues

programmes in the OQSF and the extending of the submission date for the WSP/AT. The Minister conveyed the need for the NSA to advise on standardised ICT for institutions in the PSET system.

It was noted that the office sent out a communication to members, regarding the NEDLAC Rapid Response Sub-Committee on Occupational Health and Safety. A letter was submitted through NEDLAC to the NSA requesting through DHET and NSA that funding is to be set aside for worker education on COVID-19. A call for nominations was sent through the BUSA office to the different sectors to be part of the broader provider network. A meeting has been convened with the providers on how the work can be brought forward. Members are encouraged to send additional names to the BUSA office that would like to be involved as potential service providers.

8. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

8.1. The Department has advised that the newly appointed Human Resources Development Council representatives are Ms. Azola Mayekiso, Ms. Busisiwe Mavuso, Mr Mustak Ally and Mr Gerhard Hattingh.

9. QUALITY COUNCIL FOR TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS

8.1. Members expressed discomfort around the absence of a Quality Council for Trades and Occupations Report. It was further emphasised that it is imperative that the Sub-Committee be kept abreast of the work of the QCTO.

Decision:

The BUSA office to request a written report from the QCTO representative and circulate it upon receipt.

10. SIFA PROJECT UPDATE

10.1. Ms. Cheryl James, the SIFA representative reported that the impact of COVID-19 has brought about changes in the work that SIFA has undertaken as well as the areas of focus going forward. It was noted that SIFA has recently completed a strategic planning session and will be looking at new areas of work for the rest of the year.

10.2. There has been positive progress with regards to the ILO rapid assessment project for skills needed. It has been rolled out in three pilot countries and SIFA is now working to ascertain whether the work can be mirrored in South Africa.

10.3. An opportunity has arisen for SIFA to include Just Transition in its work. BUSA secretariat is currently putting together a concept paper based on the outcome of a strategic planning session that was convened.

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10.4. South Africa, together with Kenya, is looking to do a study of policies and structures put into place during the height of COVID-19 and recovery strategies. It was noted that this research will be completed end of August 2020.

11. The CCBA Project Update

10.1.1. BUSBA secretariat noted that a call for nominations to establish a CCBA Steering Committee was disseminated to the Sub-Committee on Education and Training. There has not been substantial response in this regard.

Decision:

The BUSBA office will recirculate a call for nominations for the establishment of the CCBA Project Steering Committee in order to ensure good governance and oversight.

12. Future of Work Webinar Series

12.1. As part of the Decent Work Country Programme, NEDLAC, is currently putting together a series of webinars that will take place on the Future of Work initiative. The meetings will be open to representatives from BUSBA. The task team is in the process of finalising topics that will be covered in the series. The series will provide members with an opportunity to engage on the rapidly developing future of work debates and how the future of work agenda has been brought forward due to the nature of the pandemic. The members were alerted that the nature of the proceedings will be very rapid as there is an appetite to commence the work urgently.

Decision:

Once the work has been finalised and the agenda is ready, the BUSBA office will share the necessary information with SubCET which will enable members to participate in the relevant webinars.

13. Jobs Summit Framework Update

13.1. It was noted that the Jobs Summit Presidential Coordinating Unit (PCU) has submitted the revised framework update. The Joint Technical Coordinating Team and the Presidential Working Committee meetings have been postponed. There has not been any substantial movement due to the absence of engagement but there has been an in-principle consensus that the restructuring of the agreement in line with economic recovery should take place.

14. Update on Just Transition

14.1. Ms. Jarredine Morris, the BUSBA Energy and Environment Policy Manager tabled a presentation on the work of the Just Transition.

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- 14.2. It was noted that BUSBA had started work to develop a BUSBA position on the Just Transition. A document was circulated to all policy desks for input. The document was thereafter endorsed by the board as an evolving position paper and a Just Transition working group was established in the ambit of the Economic Policy desk.
- 14.3. It was noted that a report will henceforth be tabled to SocPol and SubCET on a quarterly basis.
- 14.4. It was agreed that BUSBA would establish two task teams to take the work forward. One for policy mapping and one for education and skills.

Decision:

The BUSBA office will endeavour to circulate the slides pertaining to the incoming work of the Just Transition.
The BUSBA office will call for active participation from SubCET once the work has been fully established.



■ The End!



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