BUSA

BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

CEO, CAS COOVADIA

This is our last edition of the BUSA Quarterly Bulletin for 2024, covering the third quarter activities. I am excited to share updates with you, our valued members, about the various activities undertaken across all our strategic pillars. Notably, we will highlight the successful Annual General Meeting and key policy developments that have taken place.

As this marks my final report to you as CEO of BUSA, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support throughout my tenure. Together, we have strengthened this organisation, and I leave behind a BUSA that is more robust than when I first joined. Your ongoing support has been instrumental in this journey, and I am confident that you will extend the same level of commitment to our new CEO, Khulekani Mathe, as he steps into this role at the beginning of 2025.

Many of you may already know that the BUSA Board has invited me to continue for another year as B20 Sherpa. I look forward to your support in this new role and encourage your active participation in the various B20 activities ahead. While 2024 has been one of our busiest years yet, 2025 promises to be even more demanding. It's essential for all of us to take a well-deserved break and recharge for the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

I wish you all a very happy, restful, and safe festive season!

BUSA Hosted a Meeting to Address Local Government Challenges in Johannesburg

On 24 July 2024, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) hosted a critical meeting to address pressing challenges faced by local government and their impact on service delivery in the City of Johannesburg.

Picture Credit: Sizwe Maswanganye.
Khulekani Mathe, CEO Designate and Cas Coovadia, CEO speaking at the local government crisis meeting.

BUSA Meets with Minister of Home Affairs

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) held a pivotal meeting with the Minister of Home Affairs to discuss key issues impacting the business community.

The discussions focused on challenges related to immigration, workforce management, and administrative processes affecting business operations. BUSA emphasised the importance of efficient systems and policy reforms to support economic growth and address the needs of the private sector.

The meeting underscored the value of constructive engagement between government and business in resolving critical challenges and creating an enabling environment for investment and development.

BUSA meets with the Minister of Home Affairs to address key issues impacting business and streamline collaborative efforts.

picture credit: Department of Home Affairs

BUSA CEO Addresses the 29th NEDLAC Summit

The 29th NEDLAC Summit provided a vital platform for social partners to discuss pressing economic and social issues facing South Africa. At the summit, BUSA CEO Cas Coovadia delivered a formal response to NEDLAC, addressing key priorities for fostering economic growth, improving labour relations, and ensuring sustainable development.

Picture Credit: Nedlac

Picture Credit: The Presidency.

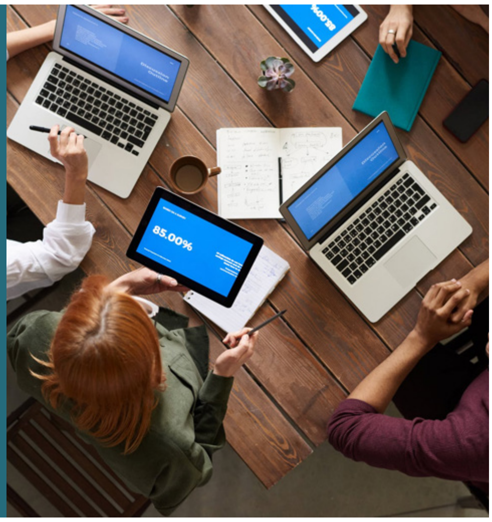
National Health Insurance Act

In May, just two weeks before the elections, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the NHI Act into law. During the Opening of Parliament Address, he acknowledged the contestation surrounding the NHI and expressed a willingness to find a workable solution. Following this, BUSA took the initiative to meet with the President. Our goal was to persuade him to allow a bilateral engagement process between the government and business to address the areas of concern regarding the NHI.

The meeting saw strong attendance, with a notable government delegation that included President Cyril Ramaphosa, Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, Deputy Minister Joe Phaahla, Health Director General Sandile Buthelezi, Deputy Director-General for NHI Dr. Nicholas Crisp, and other senior officials. On the business side, we were represented by BUSA President Mxolisi Mgojo, Deputy President Adrian Gore, CEO Cas Coovadia, Netcare CEO Dr. Richard Friedland, and BUSA CEO Designate Khulekani Mathe.

At the conclusion of our meeting, it was agreed that the business delegation would submit proposals on how we can address the more contentious aspects of the NHI Act. I am pleased to share that these proposals have been submitted and are now under consideration by the President.

SETA Regulations Litigation Against the Department of Higher Education and Training



This important matter that affects skills development efforts in business has been dragging on for quite some time. It was scheduled to be heard in court on August 14th. On that day, before the proceedings even began, the Minister's counsel raised a preliminary point regarding the SETAs, arguing that they should have been included as parties to the application due to their material interest.

It's worth noting that this point had already been dismissed by Coetzee AJ, who determined in previous proceedings that the SETAs had no substantive interest in the case. However, the Minister's counsel contended that the issues and relief sought in this application were distinct from those addressed in Coetzee's judgment. As a result, the matter could not proceed on its merits that day.

The Court then ordered written submissions followed by oral arguments on the non-joinder issue, establishing deadlines for both the Minister and BUSA's submissions. Ultimately, the judge ruled in favour of BUSA, concluding that the joinder of the SETAs was unnecessary. Furthermore, the Court ordered the Minister to pay BUSA's wasted costs, including the costs of two counsel, for raising the joinder point at such a late stage.

We now await a date for the hearing on the merits.

Electricity Regulation Amendment (ERA) Bill and Draft Energy Security (Omnibus) Bill

By the third quarter the ERA Bill awaited the president's signature, it has now been signed into law, after a delay resulting from concerns raised by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) regarding the definition of "reticulation." SALGA argued that the definition, in its current form, would restrict municipalities' future scope in providing electricity and adversely affect their financial sustainability. The Minister concurred with SALGA's concerns about the reticulation definition and its potential constitutional implications. The Minister suggested that the technical team meet to discuss and review possible solutions and whether the bill should be sent back to the National Assembly.

The draft Omnibus Bill/National Energy Security Bill had not yet been published but remained a priority. BUSA engaged with the drafters to establish a communication channel to incorporate lessons from developers and EOSS into the initial document before it became a discussion document for public engagement, which may be the priority legislation for the seventh administration

Draft Taxation Laws Amendment Bill and Employment Tax In-centives for 2024

Published by the National Treasury and SARS for public comment, these draft bills incorporated the tax proposals outlined in the 2024 budget speech. BUSA submitted detailed feedback on this legislation.

The Climate Change Bill

This Bill had been signed into law and was awaiting promulgation. Draft regulations and technical guidelines were being finalized for public comment by the end of September 2024.

National Prosecuting Authority Amend-ment Act 10 of 2024

This Act commenced on August 19, 2024, establishing the Investigating Directorate against Corruption as a permanent body.

SOCIAL POLICY REPORT

SANELISIWE JANTJIES

Acting Director - Social Policy Unit

BUSA has successfully defended the business position on several key processes, including the National Labour Migration Policy, Immigration Regulations, the Social Services Practitioners Bill, and the Expanded Public Works Programme Policy. These legislative and policy initiatives are vital in safeguarding business interests.

BUSA participates in IOE just transition summit

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) took part in the IOE Just Transition Summit, engaging in critical discussions on achieving a balanced and equitable shift toward sustainable economic models.

Picture credit: IOE

Unemployment Insurance Fund

In terms of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), BUSA has demonstrated strong leadership in addressing the challenges posed by the UIF Modernisation Task Team, particularly regarding the dysfunctional state of the UIF and Compensation Fund. Our technical expertise has been crucial in driving this work forward. We have held meetings that tackled various issues, including the Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme, unresolved UI claims, and monitoring the progress of the project management office. Insights from National Treasury's report on the Government Technical Advisory Centre will further inform legislative amendments for the UIF and the Compensation Fund.

Additionally, BUSA has critically evaluated the Labour Activation Programme. While emphasising the urgent need for sustainable job creation, we voiced our objections to the allocation of R23 billion to the Labour Activation Programme. We are committed to mobilising outside of NEDLAC to address this issue.

BUSA Attends XPATWEB Breakfast with Minister of Home Affairs

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) participated in the X PATWEB Breakfast featuring the Minister of Home Affairs. The event provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss immigration-related challenges and their impact on business operations in South Africa.

Picture credit:X PATWEB

BUSA-CCMA Small Business Webtool

The BUSA-CCMA Small Business Webtool, developed in partnership with the CCMA, has become an invaluable resource for small and medium enterprises. Previously supported by BUSA and the ILO, this tool is now integrated into the CCMA's system and has been updated with productivity elements, thanks to our collaboration with the ILO's Productivity Ecosystems Project.

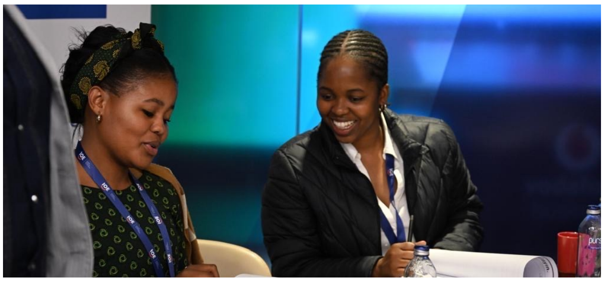
Skills Development

In the realm of skills development, BUSA has actively participated in workshops aimed at overcoming challenges associated with the Organising Framework for Occupations and the Critical Skills List. Our team has worked closely with the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Department of Home Affairs to streamline these lists. We are proud to report that our efforts have supported a more inclusive, future-oriented approach to skills development, moving beyond mere occupation-based listings. This report has been adopted, paving the way for a new process that aligns our work with the respective migration and skilling policies of DHET, DEL, and DHA.

BUSA Participates in IOE Global Young Professionals Academy

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) took part in the IOE Global Young Professionals Academy, a dynamic initiative aimed at empowering the next generation of business leaders.

The academy provided a platform for young professionals from across the globe to engage in discussions on leadership, innovation, and the future of work. BUSA highlighted the importance of developing young talent to drive sustainable economic growth and foster resilience in an evolving global economy.



Tebogo Phasha, Social Policy Coordinator, participates in the IOE Global Young Professionals Academy to shape future policy solutions.

Picture credit: IOE

BUSA continues to actively participate in various task teams and committees within NEDLAC, including the Labour Law Reforms Task Team, UIF and Compensation Fund Modernisation Task Team, and the Skills Technical Working Group. Through these efforts, we are dedicated to advancing business interests while supporting national economic development and labour reform strategies.

BUSA Participates in NEDLAC Annual Summit 2024 Symposium

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) actively participated in the NEDLAC Annual Summit 2024 Symposium, a key gathering of social partners to discuss South Africa's socio-economic priorities.

Picture Credit: NEDLAC

BUSA Participates in Private Sector Coalition Against Gender-Based Violence Symposium

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) actively engaged in the Private Sector Coalition Against Gender-Based Violence Symposium, a critical forum for addressing the role of business in combating gender-based violence (GBV).

Picture Credit: UN in South Africa


Jonathan Goldberg attending the 2024 NEDLAC Summit

Picture Credit: NEDLAC

LUNGA MALOYI,
Director - Economic Policy Unit

Draft Block Exemption for Ports and Rail

On June 19, 2024, the Competition Commission published the Draft Block Exemption for Ports and Rail. This important initiative aims to enable certain agreements and practices among firms in these sectors to be exempt from specific provisions of the Competition Act. It comes in response to the ongoing crises in the South African ports and rail sector, with the goal of fostering collaboration to reduce operational costs, enhance service quality, and mitigate losses resulting from inefficiencies and capacity limitations.

To facilitate understanding of this initiative, BUSA organized an information-sharing session with the Competition Commission where members were briefed on the legal regulatory framework surrounding the exemption.

On July 15, 2024, BUSA submitted a written response highlighting several critical considerations:

Firstly, regarding the Duration of the Block Exemption, BUSA suggested incorporating a specific timeframe for the exemption. This would allow for better planning, especially for long-term investments, given the temporary nature of block exemptions.

Secondly, concerning Competition Governance Capacity, BUSA stressed the necessity of enhancing the capacity within the Transport Economic Regulator. This enhancement is crucial to ensure effective competition regulation in the rail and port sectors.

Thirdly, BUSA proposed that the exemption explicitly include collaboration methods such as joint ventures. This inclusion would facilitate the execution of projects driven by structural reform.

Lastly, BUSA raised concerns about Clause 4.1, which excludes discussions on fixing service prices. We argued that strategic pricing could serve as a viable means to optimize logistics and alleviate congestion at critical hubs.

Progress on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The South African National Implementation Committee, known as the NIC, has convened its first government meeting. This marks a pivotal step towards implementing the AfCFTA right here in South Africa. Our next crucial milestone is the official launch of the full NIC, which will oversee the implementation of the AfCFTA and address any challenges that arise along the way.

On August 20, 2024, BUSA's Subcommittee on Trade, Transport, and Logistics met with the AfCFTA Secretary-General's office, where the AfCFTA presented on recent developments, highlighted private sector opportunities, and outlined strategies for leveraging these opportunities effectively.

Moreover, BUSA has taken the initiative to organize a Private Sector Dialogue Forum in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat. This forum aims to inform large businesses and sectoral bodies about the implementation of the AfCFTA and tackle the challenges we face, particularly the low participation in trade opportunities under the Guided Trade Initiative.

SADC Industrialisation Week

We are pleased to share highlights from the 2024 SADC Industrialisation Week in Zimbabwe, where BUSA members and staff participated. This forum focused on accelerating regional industrialization through collaboration among member states, the private sector, and international partners. Under the theme "Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development towards an Industrialised SADC," we engaged in discussions emphasising a private sector-led industrialization strategy to enhance employment and improve living standards throughout the SADC region.

Key topics included enhancing regional value chains, promoting value addition of natural resources, and ensuring policy alignment with the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap for 2015 to 2063. The outcomes, captured in the "Harare Declaration," will guide our future actions as we advance the regional industrialization agenda.

BUSA signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Thulebona Mhlanga, Economic Policy Special Projects Manager, attending the SADC Industrialisation Week

Picture Credit: SADC

Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) Regulatory Impediments Report

This report addresses twenty-nine regulations that significantly impact our small, medium, and micro-enterprises, or SMMEs, in South Africa.

A representative from the DSBD engaged with our social partners, including BUSA, to discuss the progress made since the completion of the assessment. The department has concluded its consultation process, wrapping up final discussions with social partners.

The next step is to secure Ministerial approval for the preliminary report before sharing it with stakeholders. The department is prioritising categories for the first phase of reducing these regulatory impediments.

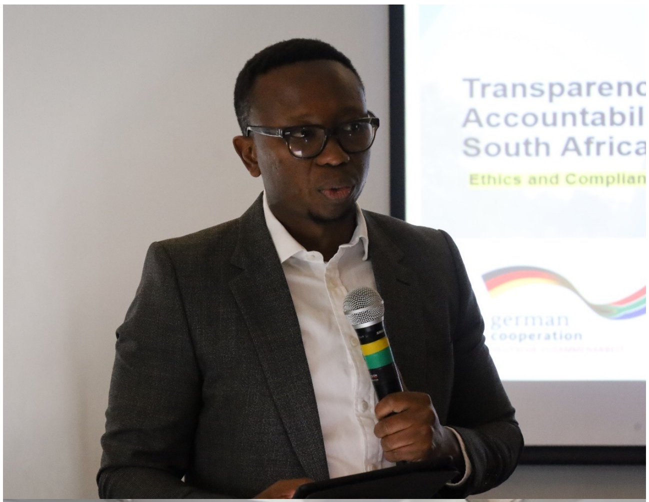
BUSA has raised concerns regarding the prioritisation process. We emphasised the need for input from social partners, even as we navigate the processes through NEDLAC. The DSBD has taken this feedback to heart and has provided a presentation for consideration by the BUSA SME Sub-committee, inviting further input from all stakeholders.

BUSA – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Partnership

We are pleased to share some exciting news about the partnership between BUSA and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, commonly known as GIZ. Together, we are conducting impactful workshops aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as ethics officers, with a strong focus on business integrity.

These workshops delve into vital topics such as anti-corruption practices and strategies. Participants will gain insights into governance, whistleblowing, and the current anti-corruption legislation in South Africa.

Our first training cohort for practitioners and SME owners took place on July 17 and 18, 2024 and the next session will wrap up this year's training offerings. Looking ahead, we are committed to hosting future training sessions on a quarterly basis.



Picture Credit: Sizwe Maswanganye.

Trade and Industry Chamber Workstream on Freight and Public Transport

The Trade and Industry Chamber's Workstream on Freight and Public Transport completed its work programme for the year, highlighted by a site visit in Gauteng on July 30, 2024, to assess PRASA's recovery efforts following extensive infrastructure vandalism during the COVID-19 pandemic. The site visit included tours of the Gibela Rail Consortium, where PRASA trains are manufactured, as well as PRASA's Pretoria North Command Train Centre and Wolmerton Train Depot.

Government Incentives Task Team

The Government Incentives Task Team is nearing completion of its mandate. A comprehensive Nedlac report containing recommendations for reviewing current government incentives has been compiled.

Social partners are currently reviewing a memo drafted by the Nedlac Secretariat to ensure it accurately reflects the task team's discussions. Once approved, the report will be presented to the Trade and Industry Chamber Convenors and Overall Convenors for final sign-off.

ETTP Conversation on Mindfulness as an Entrepreneur

ETTP (Entrepreneurial Thought & Practice) conversation, explored the powerful role of mindfulness in entrepreneurship. The discussion emphasised that mindfulness is more than just a buzzword; it is a transformative practice that can significantly enhance an entrepreneur's effectiveness and well-being.

Thulebona Mhlanga, Economic Policy Special Projects Manager, speaking at the ETTP Conversation on Mindfulness as an Entrepreneur

Picture Credit: To The POINT

Social Clause Task Team

The Task Team commissioned researchers from DNA Economics and Imani Development to analyse the Social Clause in the context of international trade. This clause incorporated sustainability standards, including core human rights, into trade agreements. An Inception Report was distributed to social partners for their input. The researchers were expected to submit the first draft of the report by the end of August 2024, with the final research project anticipated to be completed by October 2024.

HAPPY KHAMBULE

Director - Energy and Environment Policy unit

Gas Supply Issue and the Gas Amendment Bill, and Gas Master Plan for 2024.

On July 15, 2024, the Minister of Electricity and Energy held crucial discussions with Sasol and the Industrial Gas Users Association of Southern Africa, also known as IGUA-SA. The focus of this meeting was on the pressing issues surrounding the security of supply of Liquefied Natural Gas, the ongoing gas demand crisis, and potential pathways forward. Further engagements were scheduled to discuss the next steps.

In addition, the Department is diligently reviewing comments received from various stakeholders regarding the Gas Amendment Bill

In relation to the Gas Master Plan for 2024, the Minister has acknowledged, following the public participation process, that the draft contains certain discrepancies and failures. It has become clear that it must be modified and serious reconsideration given to its overall substance.
On July 30, 2024, The Minister of Energy and Electricity, Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, and Deputy Minister Samantha Jane Graham met with the BUSA leadership and committee chairs to discuss business and Department of Energy and Electricity priority areas. They also provided feedback on the policy work that had been completed.

Draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), 2023

Key assumptions and data modelling were updated in the draft IRP 2023. The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) was tasked with consolidating comments, fuel source mixes, and economic growth assumptions. A stakeholder workshop was to be coordinated to review these assumptions and comments, a process expected to take approximately six months. The Minister was anticipated to report on the way forward by late August or early September 2024.

Picture Credit: Sizwe Maswanganye.

National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)

BUSA received a written response to the issues raised during the engagement with NERSA in April 2024 on the Affordability Subsidy Charge and Electricity Price Determination Rules (EPDR). However, the response did not address the substantive issues raised. Consequently, the working group considered the available legal options to progress the matter.

In June 2024, NERSA rescinded its approval, made in December 2023, of the Electricity Price Determination Methodology Rules (EPDMR). These rules were proposed for implementation in the 2025/26 financial year as a replacement for the existing multiyear price determination methodology (MYPDM) for setting tariffs. The decision was made after the Energy Regulator evaluated the practicality of implementing the rules, considering that licensees and stakeholders were not prepared for the implementation of the EPDMR.

Eskom Holdings Soc Ltd's (Eskom) Application for Grid Capacity Reservation and/or Preservation for Section 34 Independent Power Producers (IPPs)

NERSA published its Consultation Paper on 18 May 2024 regarding Eskom's Application for Grid Capacity Reservation and/or Preservation submitted on 6 May 2024. BUSA expressed its concerns to NERSA regarding Eskom's Application and the material adverse effects on future grid access and the country. Eskom's current blanket application was rejected due to potential legal and regulatory risks arising from possible conflicts with existing laws, regulatory frameworks, and principles of fair competition.

Unverified media reports indicated that NERSA had rejected Eskom's application. NERSA's Electricity Subcommittee found that Eskom failed to demonstrate objectively justifiable and identifiable differences between public and private IPPs to warrant approval of the discrimination. Additionally, NERSA noted that Eskom did not clarify which specific areas would be affected or the duration for which they intended to reserve grid capacity.

Transmission Development Plan (TDP)

In response to concerns about the slow progress at Eskom regarding the TDP, the Minister of Electricity and Energy agreed with the issues raised. A meeting was held with the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA) to discuss modernisation and financing. The Minister was to update the market and industry on the direction and position regarding transmission by the end of August 2024.

Waste Definition

The Waste Working Group members have been diligently monitoring the process of amending the definition of "waste." The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment (DFFE) conducted an internal review and informed stakeholders once it was concluded. Business remained proactive and ready to engage when the opportunity arises.

Sector Specific Consultation on Raw Water Use Charges

BUSA was invited by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to present on sector-specific raw water use charges for the year 2025/26. This presentation took place on 15 August 2024.

DWS: Water Use License Task Team

BUSA recently met with the Director General and the national licensing team to discuss the slow progress made by the Task Team regarding unimplementable license conditions. Key outcomes from the meeting include an agreement that future task team meetings will be scheduled well in advance, with a commitment from both parties not to cancel them on short notice or send delegates who are unfamiliar with the process and unable to make decisions.

The DWS also agreed to provide draft special and specific conditions for comment by the applicant before finalising the license. Additionally, an official from each DWS region will be appointed to ensure quality assurance in the licensing process.

National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) Water Workstream

The NEDLAC Water Workstream has developed the NEDLAC Water and Sanitation Action Plan, which is being finalised with social partners. Business has been proactive in providing input into the plan, shifting discussions to be action-oriented with specific timelines. This effort will help NEDLAC prioritise action plans that require interventions and areas needing stakeholder collaboration.

BUSA Participates in Hamburg Sustainability Conference

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) took part in the Hamburg Sustainability Conference, a global platform for advancing sustainable development and corporate responsibility.

The conference gathered thought leaders, policymakers, and business representatives to discuss innovative solutions for tackling climate change, promoting renewable energy, and achieving sustainable economic growth.

Picture Credit: The Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC)

Climate Change Bill and Draft Carbon Budget Regulations

The Climate Change Bill has been signed into law and is now awaiting promulgation. The draft regulations and technical guidelines are being finalised and were due to be published for public comment by the end of September 2024. The DFFE was also finalising the draft carbon budget regulations for public comment and sharing a technical guideline and methodological allocation framework with members of the BUSA climate change working group.

Sectoral Emission Targets

BUSA has submitted comments on the draft Sectoral Emission Targets Report (SETs) published by the DFFE. The SETs were developed to ensure that the country meets the specific greenhouse gas emission levels outlined in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), covering various sectors including agriculture, industry, energy, mining, human settlements, transport, and the environment. The DFFE is currently reviewing the comments received.

BUSA-NBI-PCC Climate Change Adaptation Roundtable Discussion

On 31 July 2024, BUSA, in collaboration with the National Business Initiative (NBI) and the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), hosted a roundtable discussion on climate change adaptation. This was the first of four potential roundtables aimed at understanding how the private sector integrates climate adaptation and resilience into their operating environment.

The objective is to identify barriers to implementation, explore opportunities for overcoming these barriers, assess the potential for investment in adaptation-based interventions, and develop a framework for planning adaptation initiatives.

Just Transition - Work on Carbon Incentives

BUSA's Joint Energy and Environment Standing Committee approved research into carbon incentives, targeting low-emission technology adoption. The project spans ten months and aims to engage the National Treasury on fiscal matters related to low-emission development, with a budget of R4 million. Funding applications have been submitted to the African Climate Foundation and other donors.

BUSA as the strategic partner through the Energy One Stop Shop(EOSS) attended the DEVAC HYDROGEN-H Indaba from 17-18 September 2024.

The Devac Hydrogen Indaba provided a platform for Hydrogen for industry experts, government institutions, key private sector companies, and international investors to engage on solutions to unlock Africa's Green Hydrogen and potential project development investment opportunities.

Khuliso Nesengani, Energy Policy Coordinator, attending the DEVAC Hydrogen-H Indaba

Picture Credit: DEVAC Hydrogen-H Indaba.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Concerns about CBAM's risks to South African businesses were raised, with collaborative efforts initiated to engage NEDLAC. BUSA has voiced opposition to CBAM through DTIC to the UK government. While discussions continue at the WTO, BUSA and NBI are conducting sessions on both UK and EU CBAMs to formulate an appropriate response.

International Cooperation

In preparation for the AGOA Forum, BUSA engaged with Ms. Kendra Gaither, President of the U.S.-Africa Business Center at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The insights gathered on Capitol Hill were shared with the South African Delegation.

B20 Preparations

The BUSA President and CEO travelled to São Paulo from August 12th to 15th to meet with CNI, who was chairing the B20 this year. The visit focused on obtaining a briefing from CNI about their experiences and discussing a detailed handover to BUSA for the following year. The successful visit included collaboration with McKinsey and CNI colleagues, who developed a comprehensive playbook for chairing the B20. Meetings with Deloitte and Boston Consulting helped clarify their roles as PMO and thought leaders.

The CNI briefing underscored the extensive work required for a successful B20 hosting next year. BUSA began collaborating with McKinsey to establish a secretariat, form an Advisory Committee, hold a CEO town hall, and engage other B20 business organisations.

A briefing was also provided to the Minister of Finance regarding NT's G20 priorities, along with updates to Minister Tau and the DG at DIRCO, highlighting the importance of a structured relationship with the government for a successful B20/G20.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Conference (ILC), as the ILO's highest decision-making body, brought together tripartite delegations from 187 member states. The conference included plenary and technical committees such as the Committee on the Application of Standards, General Discussion on Decent Work and the Care Economy, Recurrent Discussion on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the Standard-Setting Committee on Biological Hazards.

BUSA monitored domestic and international developments in anticipation of the upcoming 2025 Standard-Setting Discussion on the Platform Economy, as well as the Recurrent Discussion on innovative approaches to informality and promoting transitions toward formality. In preparation, BUSA engaged the ILO Pretoria office on business-focused informality projects.

South African employers, through BUSA, consolidated their voice in the global employer survey, which was set to be handed over by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) to the ILO. This survey contributed to formulating the first draft guiding the 2025 Standard-Setting discussions. Furthermore, BUSA provided guidance to platform companies preparing to convene under ePlatform Africa ahead of international benchmarking activities.

BUSA Participates in ILO Standard Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) actively engaged in the ILO Standard Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group, a key forum for evaluating international labor standards.

Picture Credit: ILO

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the Youth Employment Services (YES) Initiative as an associate member and the African Rail Industry Association (ARIA), Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA), Polyco, and the South African Paint Manufactures Association as uni-sectoral members

YES is the highest impact private sector youth employment programme in South Africa. As a private sector led initiative, we address the country's youth unemployment crisis by empowering businesses to create jobs for our unemployed youth.

We're a non-profit organisation that receives no government funding. We work with leading businesses in various sectors to provide 12-month quality work experiences for unemployed young people to become the future managers, skilled professionals, and entrepreneurs who will drive the economy forward. In return, businesses receive one or two levels up on their B-BBEE scorecard and / or integrate into their ESG strategies.

The African Rail Industry Association is the pre-eminent body in South Africa representing the players in the railway industry. We believe that a stronger and united railways industry has the potential to grow the sector and propel railways to play their rightful role as a mode of choice.

Earlier in the year, we welcomed the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA), Polyco, and the South African Paint Manufacturers Association (SAPMA) into the BUSA fold in the category of uni-sectoral members.

The Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) is an association that represents and promotes the interests of the retirement industry in South Africa and across the continent, to the ultimate benefit of the members of retirement funds. The most important function of the IRFA is to represent the retirement industry in negotiations with government authorities and regulators, which would include commenting on legislation and tax matters affecting retirement funds/pensioners etc. The IRFA therefore depends on total support from all parties concerned with the retirement benefit provision industry.

Polyco is focused on making waste a valuable resource that works for our economy. We aim to grow the collection and recycling of all plastic packaging in South Africa and to promote the responsible use and reuse of this plastic packaging.

Our mission is to reduce the amount of plastic packaging going to landfill and to end plastic waste in the environment. Polyco does this by collaborating with multiple stakeholders, by investing in recycling innovation and infrastructure in South Africa, and by educating both the industry and the consumer about recycling.

SAPMA is a trade association representing 90% of paint manufactured in South Africa, representing paint manufacturers, raw material and services suppliers, paint retailers and painting contractors.

BUSA Hosts Annual AGM with Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa

On 28 August 2024, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) successfully hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The event brought together leaders from business, government, and other key stakeholders to discuss critical issues impacting South Africa's economy and development.

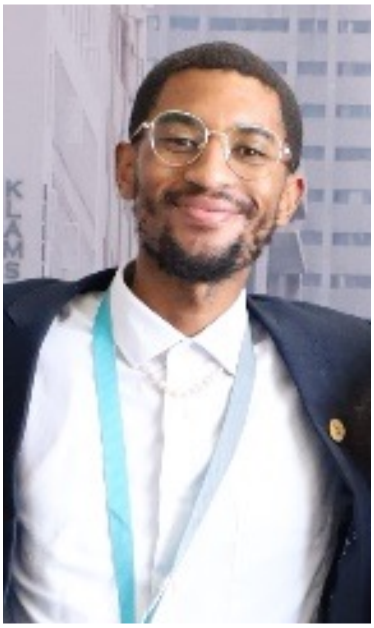
The highlight of the AGM was an address by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who shared insights on the country's economic priorities, ongoing reforms, and the pivotal role of business in fostering growth and creating jobs. President Ramaphosa commended BUSA for its continued efforts in driving collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Picture Credit: Sizwe Maswanganye.

STAFF NEWS

In September, we said goodbye to the talented, dedicated, and hardworking Nkopodi Mphahlele, who resigned to accept a new role with greater responsibilities at one of our member organisations.

Nkopodi joined BUSA as an intern just five years ago and quickly made a name for himself by demonstrating exceptional commitment and going above and beyond in his service to our members. While we are saddened to see him leave, we are also excited for the opportunities that await him. We wish him all the best for the future.



BUSA and YES entered into a cooperative agreement, resulting in YES seconding two of its employees, Jordyn Goieman and Tholithembelihle Cenenda, to support the Social Policy Unit and the BUSA CEO's Office, respectively. In the short time they have been with us, they have become valuable members of our team. We warmly welcome them and express our deep gratitude to YES.

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