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BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

BLSA AND BUSA JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT - South Africa's Business Leaders Affirm the Rule of Law and Call for Calm and Co-Created African Solutions Amidst Migration and Immigration Challenges

JOHANNESBURG 5 June 2026 **-** Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and Business Leaders South Africa (BLSA) note with concern the growing tensions and public debate surrounding migration and immigration in South Africa. We recognise that immigration, employment and social cohesion are vital for national and continental growth and stability.

At a time of heightened economic pressures, unemployment, high crime levels and social challenges, it is understandable that citizens seek solutions to legitimate concerns regarding economic inclusion, service delivery, border management and the rule of law. BUSA and BLSA believe firmly that these challenges must be addressed through lawful and constructive policy interventions. Consequently, we call on government to take charge of the current reported situation in order to ensure that legitimate concerns raised by communities are addressed.

Organised business in South Africa notes that its companies operate across the continent. This brings much needed investment and job creation. Similarly, companies from the rest of the continent and elsewhere operate businesses in South Africa, employing thousands of South Africans.

Organised business also acknowledges that managing migration is not unique to South Africa; it is a complex, structural global challenge as nations worldwide seek to balance domestic resource pressures with international humanitarian obligations and economic integration. We therefore note the reports of reactions and sentiments emerging in other African countries linked to developments in South Africa.

We therefore welcome the decisive commitments made by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his tabling and reply to the Presidency Budget Vote. We strongly urge for swift action to ensure the return to the rule of law. We also firmly believe that South Africa requires strong, steady leadership from the government to guide immigration, labour enforcement, and social cohesion. Clear and calm governance will reassure communities and stakeholders that concerns are being addressed effectively.

A shared commitment to Human Rights and the Rule of Law

South Africa's constitutional democracy is built on an unshakeable foundation of human dignity, equality, and human rights. We also recognise that managing illegal immigration is a serious, legitimate public policy priority that the state must address lawfully. We therefore reiterate our belief that violence and the targeting of individuals based on their nationality, anywhere on the continent is not a solution. For us, true security can only be achieved by strengthening the rule of law.

Client and corporate footprint impact

For South African multinationals (MNCs) and corporate entities operating across Africa, continental integration is not an abstract concept; it is the driver of our collective success and the direct combating of unemployment, inequality, and economic exclusion.
By the same token, South Africa benefits enormously from legal investments as well as genuine entrepreneurship, skills, and talents from other African countries. Consequently, when individuals target foreign nationals, they directly harm South Africa's economic interests.

Hostility disrupts vital corporate operations, strains diplomatic ties with regional partners, and threatens the safety of personnel and infrastructure across cross-border trade corridors.

Realising Agenda 2063 objectives and aspirations

Our future prosperity is inseparable from the economic development of the continent. Consequently, we believe that shared economic prosperity cannot be achieved in the absence of achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, which (in part) requires the seamless and legal movement of ideas, capital, technology, and trade.

We therefore call on Africa's leaders to pursue harmonised and integrated migration policies across the economic, labour and social spectrums. We also call on government leaders across the continent to accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). We remain cognisant that such an acceleration will, amongst others, require:

- Modernised border management and immigration systems.
- Enhanced regional cooperation.
- The dismantling of illicit and illegal trade.

To that end, the private sector stands ready to partner with governments across the continent.

Conclusion

Organised business remains resolute in working alongside the government of South Africa and our continental partners to build an inclusive economy. By promoting strict adherence to the rule of law, fostering dialogue, and respecting human rights, we believe that we will reinforce the values of social cohesion and interconnectedness, while also achieving shared pan-African prosperity and lasting peace.

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Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) is the apex organised business organisation and the largest federation of business chambers and industry associations in South Africa. Formed in October 2003, it serves as the principal, unified voice of the private sector, collectively representing approximately 90% of all formal commercial businesses in the country.

Its primary function is to influence national policy and legislative development to foster a stable, competitive, and inclusive macroeconomic climate. BUSA acts as the officially recognised representative of business at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC), where it engages directly with government, community groups, and organised labour to shape economic, social, environmental, and transformation policy.

Key Policy Focus Areas
BUSA functions as a member-driven body through key specialised committees:

- **Economic Policy:** Focuses on national tax regulations, trade agreements, competition policy, company law, macroeconomics, and infrastructure.
- **Social and Labour Market Policy**: Addresses the South African labour market, education and training schemes, workplace health and safety, and social legislation (including the National Health Insurance and social security frameworks).
- **Energy and Environment Policy**: Champions private-sector collaboration with state enterprises to tackle infrastructure crises (such as energy generation and rail transport corridors) and navigates the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economic systems.

List of BUSA Members
BUSA's expansive framework divides its members into distinct operational categories, ranging from major sectoral giants to professional bodies.
BUSA membership is structured into several key categories representing a broad spectrum of the South African business community.
These include:

- Board of Trustees (Direct Corporate Members): Includes major companies such as Ernst & Young, Investec, JSE, MTN, PwC, Rothschild, SAB, Sanlam, SAPPI, Sasol, Shell, and Vodacom.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SOUTH AFRICA

Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) is an independent, influential association representing the CEOs and leaders of South Africa's largest enterprises. This includes major JSE-listed companies, large unlisted organisations, and prominent foreign multinationals. Originally founded in 1959 as the South African Foundation, it rebranded as BLSA in 2005.

BLSA focuses on harnessing the direct influence of top corporate executives. It serves as a forum for these leaders to engage in high-level dialogue with government, labour structures, and civil society to drive economic growth and structural reforms. According to independent research, BLSA members directly contribute approximately 27.5% of South Africa's GDP and anchor 16.7% of all formal sector employment.

Core Objectives and Functions
Policy Advocacy: Formulates and communicates the private sector's collective stance on macro-economic policy, fiscal sustainability, and regulatory adjustments to foster a competitive business environment.

- **National Problem Solving**: Mobilises corporate resources to cooperate with state institutions on critical infrastructure deficits, such as national energy security and logistical upgrades across ports and rail transport corridors.
- **Institutional Support and Integrity**: Champions ethical leadership and anti-corruption measures by actively building partnerships that strengthen public watchdogs and state agencies.

Representative BLSA Members
BLSA membership represents a significant portion of the South African economy, with members comprising major corporations across various sectors, including financial services, mining, telecommunications, retail, and manufacturing. These include:

- Financial & Professional Services: Absa, Alexander Forbes, Allan Gray, Capitec, Citi, Clientèle, Coronation, Deloitte, Deutsche Bank, Discovery, ENSafrica, Goldman Sachs, Hollard, Investec, JPMorgan Chase, JSE, KPMG, Liberty, Momentum Metropolitan, Nedbank, Old

• Unisectoral Members: Key industry associations including Agri SA, Agbiz, AFSA, AMSA, ASISA, AMEO, the Automotive Business Council, BASA, CAIA, Minerals Council South Africa, and SAIA. • Chambers of Commerce & Industry: Represented by organisations like the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), the Small Business Institute (SBI), and various Bi-National Chambers. • Corporate Representative Organisations: Including Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) and the Manufacturing Circle. • Professional Business Organisations: Comprising groups like Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA), the South African Private Practitioners Forum (SAPPF), and The Concrete Institute. • Associate Members: Various non-voting associations and statutory frameworks.	Mutual, OUTsurance, PwC, Sanlam, Standard Bank, Webber Wentzel. • Industrial, Resources & Manufacturing: Anglo American, Anglo American Platinum, AngloGold Ashanti, Exxaro, Gold Fields, Kumba Iron Ore, Mondi, Sappi, Sasol, Sibanye-Stillwater, South32. • Retail, Telecoms & Other: Amazon, BAT, Bidvest, Bowmans, BP, Distell, EOH, Isuzu, • MultiChoice, MTN, Naspers, Nestlé, Sea Harvest, Siemens, South African Breweries (SAB), Telkom, TFG, TotalEnergies, Unilever, Vodacom, Volkswagen, Woolworths.