



MEDIUM TERM BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT

In a media statement released today, the President of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (SACCI) Mr Chose Choeu said:

Quote:

We welcome:

- The delivery agreements and strategic plans for government entities and the alignment of policies, programmes, projects and investment outputs and activities with outcome statements.
- The policy view that shared long term goals and well sequenced reforms are more likely to succeed than protectionism.
- The spending commitment to infrastructure that will support the business environment – transport, electricity, and communications - although this unfortunately comes at cost to public sector debt and rises in tariffs and user fees.
- The commitment to more effective and efficient financial management and governance and to combating corruption and fraud.
- The relaxation of exchange controls and investment limits and the improved ability of business to raise and deploy capital offshore.
- The acknowledgement that the implementation, alignment of policy and programmes, the management of infrastructure projects and the support for accelerated business investments together with actual delivery on the outputs of the national growth strategy are key for the future of the country.
- The undertaking to improve service delivery and to measure the results more accurately.
- The strengthening of capacity to root out corruption and waste.

We are uncertain about:

- Our ability to mobilise all South Africans behind a major project.

We are concerned about our inability to:

- Achieve targets on critical health matters.
- Provide quality education to our children.
- Reduce the level of unemployment.
- The high dependence in capital inflows, especially short term and volatile flows.
- In addition to reducing bottlenecks and the cost of doing business through capacity expansion there should have been more attention to reducing the regulatory burden and red tape to promote ease of doing business.
- We hope that efforts to strengthen financial sector regulation will be characterised by greater effectiveness but lower bureaucracy and red tape.
- The increased allocations in the Adjustments Appropriation largely due to the increases awarded in response to the public sector strikes and the huge disparities between proposed allocations between provincial and local government.

We congratulate the fiscal authorities on being ranked first amongst 94 countries in the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey.

SACCI agrees that good ideas should be put ahead of the old ideological battles: a sense of common purpose above the same narrow partnership. SACCI calls on every citizen to put South Africa first, and at the end of every day to ask: "What have I done for my country today?"

Unquote

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