

# Business Unity South Africa

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) was launched at the business unity banquet held at Sun City on 11 October 2003. The launch was witnessed by President Mbeki, Cabinet Ministers, business leaders and about 3000 other guests.

**B**USA will be a united and fully representative organisation of business in all sectors of economic activity in South Africa. It brings together the Black Business Council (BBC) and Business South Africa (BSA) in a new organisation that will represent the business constituency at the over-arching level. The BBC and BSA believe that this unification process is in the best interests of their members, the business community at large and South Africa.

Both the BBC and BSA will cease to exist on 31 December 2003. The members of the BBC and BSA will all become founder members of BUSA.

BUSA's first President is Mr Patrice Motsepe and its first Chairman is Mr Attie du Plessis. Four Vice-Presidents will be appointed before the end of 2003.

It is BUSA's vision to be a unified and fully representative organisation that contributes to a vibrant, transforming and growing economy in South Africa. Its mission is to ensure that organised business plays a constructive role, within the context of the country's economic growth, development and transformation goals, in achieving an environment in which businesses of all sizes and in all sectors can thrive, expand



*Patrice Motsepe, President of Business Unity South Africa*

and be competitive both nationally and internationally.

BUSA will pursue this vision and mission by:

- acting as the principal representative of business in South Africa in its national, sub-continental, continental and international spheres of activity, so as to ensure a primary and consistent representation of the views of the South African business community;
- **promoting broad-based Black Economic Empowerment by:-**
  - designing strategies and programmes aimed at broad-based Black Economic Empowerment, having regard to existing reports, studies and initiatives;
  - engaging Government, corporate South Africa and other stakeholders on issues of broad-based Black Economic Empowerment;
  - influencing appropriate legislation to create an enabling environment;
  - promoting transformation both within organised business, as well as at enterprise level;
- advancing and promoting initiatives aimed at job creation and the alleviation of poverty;
- **acting for and representing the views of its members at national, sub-continental, continental and international levels, *inter alia*, by:-**
  - acting on behalf of its members on mandated issues;
  - influencing legislation and policy in the interests of members;

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- lobbying and advocating agreed upon positions and policies with government, labour, communities and other stakeholders;
  - the commissioning of research on relevant issues;
  - acting as a caucus for its membership in appropriate forums and bodies;
  - arranging representation on behalf of member organisations, or nominating representatives of member organisations, to commissions, committees or other institutions in accordance with decisions taken by members;
  - co-operating and, where appropriate, affiliating with relevant international organisations and bodies and representing member organisations in international bodies; and
  - communicating and consulting with members on important international affairs which may impact on South African business interests;
- **enabling business to play a meaningful strategic role in South Africa's overall development by:-**
    - promoting South Africa domestically and internationally;
    - promoting the development of an economic and social system based on the principles of justice, a market oriented economy, individual entrepreneurship and equal opportunities; and
    - giving attention to the role of small and medium business enterprises in all sectors and to the development of linkages between large, medium and small businesses to the benefit of the economy as a whole.

BUSA will be the representatives of organised business in Nedlac.



*Attie du Plessis (right) new chairman of BUSA, with Professor Raymond Parsons at last years Nedlac Summit*

## Section 77 updates

### Breakthrough on plastic bags impasse

A second meeting under the auspices of the Section 77 standing committee was held at Nedlac on 16 October to consider the notice tabled by Cosatu and its affiliate Ceppwawu, the Chemical, Energy, Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union, as well as Nactu-affiliate Sacwu (South African Chemical Workers' Union) of possible protest action regarding job losses in the plastic bags industry

The notice was directed at Government, in particular the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and retailers. The unions gave as reason for the possible protest action the job losses that have resulted from the drop in demand for plastic bags following the introduction of charging for plastic bags.

Parties agreed at the meeting to work within the plastic bags task team on a joint communication, which would be widely distributed, to clarify misunderstandings that had arisen as a result of the September 2002 agreement between the parties not being properly communicated. The meeting was attended by representatives of Government, organised business, major retailers, and the unions.

If this strategy is successful, the union would hold off on the protest action, and re-evaluate the situation next year.

### Jobs losses notice in the Clothing, textile and leather industries still under discussion

Nedlac's Standing Committee on Section 77 notices held its first meeting to consider the notice tabled by the Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union, SACTWU, regarding job losses in the clothing, textiles and footwear industries. A further meeting will be held on 29 October.