



TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

FROM: THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY

SUBJECT: PPF WELCOMES ASPECTS OF SONA

DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 2021

The Progressive Professionals Forum welcomes critical areas identified by President Ramaphosa in the State of The Nation address and eagerly awaits its implementation

The Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF) has long been making clarion calls for government to address critical areas which impede the reconstruction and transformation agenda. “We welcome the State President's continued call to buy local. It has been the position of the State to implement localization and targeted procurement in all or most of State tenders. The call to buy local and to buy from black owned business is a call for South Africans to implement Black Economic Empowerment principles in their homes, businesses, and their personal procurement budgets. PPF regards this appeal as a call to all South Africans to contribute towards inclusive economic growth.” says Kashif Wicomb PPF President.

The PPF has since been advocating for a dedicated SOE Act as current legislations which govern SOEs such as the PFMA; Companies Act etc in many instances conflict with each other. “A dedicated SOE Act must place legal accountability with SOE executives and must structure SOEs in a manner which manages political influence on the operations of SOEs. We will monitor the progress of this announcement and certainly provide our input to the draft legislation” says Wicomb.

PPF has been advocating for the transformation of the country’s energy sector by introducing black entrepreneurs as owners of generation into an area which is dominated by international operators. “PPF members have expressed their discontent on the government’s slow pace of transforming the energy sector. PPF members have made a call for the relaxation of licensing requirements which will

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see black entrepreneurs the venture into energy space. We are pleased that this has come to bear” says Kashif Wicomb, PPF President.

“PPF has since the launch of its GBVF programme in 2020 been mobilising various stakeholders to rally behind the fight to tackle GBVF including putting in place tangible interventions to empower women and children. The government of South Africa has today displayed a commitment to lead from with the 40 % set aside for women owned business. We will monitor the implementation of this policy” says Wicomb.

PPF also welcomes the reaffirmation by President to place more emphasis on the SMMEs including easing some impediments on small business. We emphasise again that the State should focus on Co Operatives as a real vehicle for broad based empowerment and are disappointed that this was not mentioned. The PPF will be making written submissions to Minister responsible for Tourism and Small Business Development on the adoption of promotion of the Co-Operative model.

PPF is worried though about the state of local government in South Africa which is currently being compounded by COVID-19 effects. It is against this backdrop that PPF will soon be engaging the Minister responsible on the renewed posture of building a capable, ethical, responsive, and developmental local government in South Africa.

PPF is of the firm belief that the nitty gritty of SONA will be influenced through Pre-budget submissions and PPF representing the middle strata will be making submissions to the responsible Ministers.

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact Sithembiso Kubheka (PPF Secretary General) on 072 589 3411 or Kashif Wicomb on 082 415 6634.

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About the PPF

The Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF) is a non-racial, no sexist and non-xenophobic organisation of progressive professionals, academics, intellectuals, and patriotic entrepreneurs subscribing the values of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of South Africa. The PPF's, as the resource base and think tank of South Africa, objective is to assist the State in realising our country's developmental goals through contributing towards public policy, research, and advocacy.

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