

Appendix B

11/21/15

BUSINESS FORUM

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The Negotiating Council
Multi-Party Negotiating Process
World Trade Centre
Kempton Park
(fax) 011 397 2211

24 May 1993

Dear Negotiating Council members

BUSINESS FORUM STATEMENT FOR TABLING AT THE NEGOTIATING COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY, 24 MAY 1993

Attached please find a statement from the Business Forum for attention of all participants in the Multi-Party Negotiating Process. It is our intention to release this statement to the media, once it has been placed before the Negotiating Council meeting of Tuesday, 25 May 1993.

Yours sincerely



**DAVE BRINK
BUSINESS FORUM CHAIRMAN**

STATEMENT TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MULTI-PARTY NEGOTIATING PROCESS FROM THE BUSINESS FORUM

The Business Forum, being widely representative of the business community in South Africa, considers that the transformation process in South Africa is at a critical stage. Although recent reports are positive, the negotiation process appears to remain vulnerable and fragile. This has been exacerbated by persistent violence and the education crisis. Unless the resumed political negotiations succeed, the impact on employment and the economy - which is in its fifth year of recession - will be devastating. It is clear that the economy and the country cannot afford another setback of the kind that occurred with the breakdown of Codesa II.

The business sector is the engine of the country's economic performance. It is the principal employer of labour, the major contributor to the national wealth, and the prime generator of new jobs. It cannot fulfil these functions in a climate of uncertainty, instability, disorder and violence - to which the basic answer must be a realistic and rapid political settlement. South Africa desperately needs a political solution acceptable to most South Africans and the international community, and which will stand the test of time.

The Business Forum stresses that another political impasse will lead to more business closures, the withdrawal and withholding of investment, a further flight of capital and skilled manpower and further loss of job opportunities. Business confidence, already at a very low level, will suffer another blow. A successful transitional agreement on the other hand, will provide the climate for the economy to grow and for South Africa to address comprehensively the problem of poverty.

The Business Forum has a vision of a prosperous non-racial democratic South Africa and remains committed and anxious to help in attaining that goal. But every political party has a heavy burden of responsibility to create conditions - especially regarding the promotion of peace - in which that vision can be attained. Business believes that the political leadership of our country is equal to the task, provided that a statesmanlike approach is adopted towards the gravity of the situation.

The Business Forum therefore appeals to all the participants in the current negotiations to make every effort to ensure a successful outcome to these discussions. Business hopes that all political players will show the necessary flexibility, ability to compromise and realism to keep the negotiations on track - and to ensure that the process underway reaches early conclusions which are as inclusive as possible.

24 May 1993

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The following business organisations constitute the Business Forum :

Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut
Building Industries Federation South Africa
Chamber of Mines
Council of Southern African Bankers
Foundation for African Business and Consumer Services
Islamic Business Chamber
National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry
South African Agricultural Union
South African Chamber of Business
South African Employers' Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs
South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
South African Property Owners Association
Steel Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa
The Life Offices' Association of South Africa