



SAIBA

SAIBA Speech – for PBF function – 14th May 2024

- Program Director
- Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa Mr Paul Mashatile
- ANC Gauteng Chairperson
- ANC Tshwane Chairperson
- Persons of Government in Attendance
- Our Sponsor for today Mt Mohamed Mahier Tayob
- SAIBA Board, Executive and Members present today
- Fellow speakers
- and all in attendance today

All Protocol observed.

Goodafternoon.

It's an honor to address you today as co-chair of SAIBA (South african indo-afro business association). The formation of SAIBA took place after my co-chair and I discussed the crucial topic of networking within marginalized communities. In a world where access to resources and opportunities are not always equitable, networking becomes not just a tool, but a lifeline for progress and empowerment.

SAIBA is a non-profit organisation and was established for a public benefit purpose by independent entrepreneurs with a common vision to broaden and create a platform for the economic empowerment and development of business entrepreneurs in South Africa. SAIBA is head-quartered in Johannesburg; it is governed and administered by a

SOUTH AFRICAN INDO-AFRO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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President: Dr. K. Pather **Directors:** A. Moodliar, G. Sebulela, S. Moodley

Board and an Executive and it has three key location chapters; that being Johannesburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Cape Town.

Marginalized communities face unique challenges, often stemming from systemic inequalities and historical injustices. However, within these communities lies immense resilience, creativity, and untapped potential. Networking provides a means to harness these strengths, creating pathways for collective advancement.

At its core, networking is about building relationships, sharing knowledge, and creating opportunities. In marginalized communities, these connections are even more vital, serving as bridges to education, employment, and social support networks. By coming together, we can amplify our voices, advocate for change, and challenge the status quo.

But networking isn't just about individual gain; it's about community empowerment. When we reach out a hand to lift others up, we strengthen the entire fabric of our society. By fostering collaboration and cooperation, we can break down barriers, dismantle stereotypes, and build a more inclusive future for all.

Yet, networking in marginalized communities requires more than just goodwill; it demands intentional action and resource allocation. We must invest in infrastructure, programs, and initiatives that facilitate networking opportunities, especially for those who face the greatest barriers.

On the subject of networking and also on South Africa's Investment attractiveness, Crime is a major deterrent to socio-economic growth. SAIBA has engaged the Ministry of Police on this subject; also focussing on "kidnapping" and its negative impact but this is a direct example of networking and engaging as a collective to mitigate against and eliminate Crime in South Africa.



It is further imperative to acknowledge the critical role entrepreneurs play in driving the economic prosperity of South Africa. Our collective contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is substantial, and it is through our continued growth that we can foster a more equitable society, bridging the gap between the affluent and the less fortunate. By identifying and implementing quick wins, we can catalyze the momentum needed to elevate our growth rates beyond the modest 1% mark, which currently yields an annual increase of only 100 billion in GDP. Our beloved SA can reach and surpass a 5% growth rate, which would result in a significant 500 billion annual boost to our GDP, with roughly 25 % going to the tax base. This enhanced growth will enable the necessary investments in infrastructure, which in turn will fuel further growth, creating a virtuous cycle of development.

As we gather here today, let us commit ourselves to the task at hand. Let us pledge to cultivate networks that empower, inspire, and uplift. Let us recognize the power of our collective voices and the potential of our shared endeavors. Together, we can build a world where every individual, regardless of background or circumstance, has the chance to thrive.

I want to conclude by reminding us all; Former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, said “ **I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities**” and I stand here confirming SAIBAs commitment to working with government and private to ensure this is achieved.

Thank you.

