



SAIBA

SAIBA Speech – for AUBC Round Table Dialogue with DP

- Program Director
- Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa Mr Paul Mashatile
- AUBC President Mr George Sebulela
- Persons of Government in Attendance
- SAIBA Board, Executive and Members present today
- Fellow speakers
- and all in attendance today

All Protocol observed.

Goodmorning.

On behalf of the South African Indo-Afro Business Association's (SAIBA) Board, Executive and Members; let me express our sincere gratitude to AUBC and fellow sponsors for organising and enabling what we believe is a critical dialogue and for which we as SAIBA are proud to be a part of. My time today is split into 2, a brief overview of SAIBA and a message from SAIBA.

What is SAIBA ? - SAIBA is a non-profit organisation and was established for a public benefit purpose by independent entrepreneurs under the auspices of AUBC (The African United Business Confederation) 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 Board and an Executive and it has three key location chapters; that being Johannesburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Cape Town.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDO-AFRO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Aligned with the theme of today, The Role of Leadership in Economic Growth, one of the fundamental Key Performance Areas of SAIBA, as a business leadership forum, is to enable the commercial transition of South African Black, Coloured and Indian persons in the “business” arena from being marginalised to be leading and to provide a platform for engagement with stakeholders. This is further supported by the promotion of meaningful participation of previously disadvantaged people in the mainstream of the South African economy.

SAIBA since inception has steadily increased its membership, some of whom are present here today, to include South African Previously Disadvantaged People’s businesses and persons. Our membership includes a diverse representation of gender, spirituality and age and includes sectors of education, healthcare, oil and gas, mining, logistics, air and ground transportation, information technology, food, agriculture and retail.

As a collective, we have a significant impact on South Africa’s socio-economic landscape. Our “social contract” with the people of South Africa, contributes on a daily basis to many paying jobs and supports many non-profit corporate social activities. In addition, our “economic contract” with the country of South Africa; includes many commercial businesses that contribute to the tax regime, that contribute to commercial delivery of goods and services and overall contributes to the business development growth agenda of South Africa.

What is SAIBA’s message that I would like to share and leave you with – in keeping with the theme of today; as a collective of leaders; our history of “racial” struggle demands from us that we ensure our children and grandchildren do not ever experience the same. It is at this time that as SAIBA, remembering the “humanitarian struggles of South Africa”, we wish to; through our Honourable Deputy President Mr Paul Mashatile, thank the South African Government for calling for the cessation of violence, restraint, and peace between Israel and Palestine.



To continue, for us to effectively deliver on our socio-economic contract to “SA. Incorporated” we have to mitigate and eliminate “obstacles”. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic’s commercial pain, in addition to the July unrests commercial pain, in addition to the KZN floods commercial pain; all of which many businesses are still trying to recover from we on an hourly basis struggle with bureaucracy, struggle with criminal activity, struggle with tribalism, struggle with corruption, struggle with favouritism and as a result our leadership and our businesses are “being marginalised”. Yes, these struggles are real however the impact of these struggles is even more painful; especially to our employees and our family and friends that do not “have a treasure chest of savings” to carry them through the bad times.

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As Chairperson of SAIBA and on behalf of the SAIBA organisation; our message today is to urge the collective socio-economic development of South Africa and its assets to ensure the benefit to all South Africans.

As a country, yes we have our challenges, but South Africa as a country has one of the most sophisticated and promising emerging markets with a sizeable consumer base and a growing middle class to drive long term return, we have one of the most industrialised and diversified economies on the continent, we have a large and diversified mineral resource endowment, we have approximately 21000km of railways, we have air + dry + sea ports and very importantly we have “hard working South Africans”.



It is 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.

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Let us as Leadership South Africa lead and turn the “crisis” of crime & power & water & low economic growth into an opportunity to reposition South Africa as the no 1 socio-economic HUB of Africa and the no 1 entry point for the world into Africa.

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 this and offering SAIBAs support to ensure this is achieved.

I thank you.

