



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA HOUSES

FROM: KGANKI MATABANE

SUBJECT: BLACK BUSINESS COUNCIL STATEMENT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

DATE: 13 February 2026

The Black Business Council (BBC) notes the State of The Nation Address (SONA) delivered by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa. The BBC is very disappointed that most of the socio-economic transformation aspects in the speech, which are repeats from the previous SONAs, are just statements with no timelines. For example, The President committed, since 2024, to fast-tracking regulations under the Public Procurement Act, 2024. Almost two (2) years after the act was enacted, nothing is happening. On the Transformation Fund, the President has not provided any timelines on when the fund will be operational.

This being his 10th SONA, the President also failed to account for his promises made over the years such as establishment of the Smart City, Bullet Trains, Youth Unemployment, University in Ekurhuleni, Converting South Africa into a Construction Side and many other promises that could have created jobs and grew our beloved economy. There are also no concrete plans to support small and black businesses.

The BBC supports the establishment of the National Water Crisis Committee which must be inclusive of representatives from both Apex business organisations. The BBC is of the strong view that parties that are conflicted must not participate due to their vested interest in providing services and/or their products. Additionally, the committee must have a clear plan for deliverables and timeframes.

The BBC calls upon President Ramaphosa to forge a genuine partnership and inclusive processes that reflects the realities of the country. President Ramaphosa should not continue to preside over committees that exclude other business formations.

On Eskom, the BBC supports the energy plan that does not seek to destroy or strip Eskom's assets to advance the interest of big business in the name of partnership. The control and ownership of the assets must remain under the stewardship of the utility and government.

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About the Black Business Council

The Black Business Council (BBC) is the over-arching confederation that represents black professional, business associations and chambers. The primary purpose of the BBC is to lobby government on policy related matters and to play an advocacy role where policies are in place in order to accelerate the participation of black business in the mainstream economy.