



PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS FORUM

# FRIDAY 5

ISSUE 26. JANUARY 15 2021

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A background image of a newspaper with the word 'BUSINESS' visible on the page.

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# TOP #5 TRENDING ARTICLES

## Ugandans vote in charged election under internet blackout (News24)

Ugandans began voting in a tense election Thursday under heavy security and an internet blackout as veteran leader Yoweri Museveni pursues a sixth term against a former pop star half his age. (AFP, 2021)

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## Excitement as ICASA charges on with spectrum auction (IOL)

JOHANNESBURG - ALL EYES have shifted to the new high demand spectrum auction to be led by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) by the end of March. (Faku, 2021)

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## When is the best time to borrow money for your business (IOL)

Small businesses face many challenges with access to working capital being one of them. There is the perception out there that borrowing money is a last resort, but lending can actually be a very strategic move that can build your business in the long run. (Girnun, 2021)

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## Reserve Bank to hold repo rate in 2021 according to survey (IOL)

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Reserve Bank will keep its repo rate at a record low 3.50 percent at its Jan. 21 meeting, and for the rest of 2021, as the coronavirus pandemic rages and with inflation expected to remain benign, a Reuters poll found on Thursday. (Ndaba, 2021)

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## Where does the USA stand one week after attempted insurrection (Al Jazeera)

Wednesday marks one week since the United States Capitol riot and one week until President-elect Joe Biden assumes office. Right-wing supporters of US President Donald Trump breached the Capitol on January 6, inspiring shock throughout the world. (AlJazeera, 2021)

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENCY

**KASHIF WICOMB**

***2021 off to a shaky start ...& Marcus Jooste of Steinhoff still running free & living a private life of luxury.***

2020 ended on a Level 3 Lockdown with a President teary eyed and very emotionally & caringly appealing to his country to obey lockdown regulations for all our benefit. 2021 started with a President encouraging his supporters to storm their parliamentary precinct which resulted in death; injury; violence; damage to and theft of public property in short, a revolt, as he was unhappy with the election results.

The one took place in Africa and the other in the so-called bastion of democracy, the USA. These two images present what we as South Africans often take for granted: A caring government vs A government with very little interest for the poor and marginalised.

This week also saw the announcement of the COVID vaccine roll out plan, a plan we welcome and one we fully support. As the PPF we will vigorously guard against the repeat of the PPE saga of 2020. By repeat we mean the hasty establishment of procurement companies to supply the State with goods; well-connected individuals receiving a lion's share of the procurement spend; inferior products being delivered to the State and ultimately to South Africans & companies and entrepreneurs with a track record in the sector being overlooked in favour of the well-connected individuals.

We are certainly not propagating for companies to take unbridled advantage of this emergency spend but we are clear that if suppliers are appointed (and we must emphasise across the full value chain) that the transformation objectives must be fully complied with.

***The PPF calls for a transparent roll out plan for the 40 million vaccines, the largest logistic project in our country's history.***

***The PPF calls for the appointment of majority black owned suppliers across the full supply chain.***

***The PPF calls for the appointment of suppliers who are active players in their sector to avoid the hastily set up suppliers experienced during the PPE saga.***

***The vaccine project must be a catalyst to develop the relevant sectors and its role players and not be a get rich quick scheme for a few.***

## THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS & TAX EXCELLENCE LEADERSHIP DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND



The International Institute of Business & Tax Excellence is an integrated GLOBAL solution for entrepreneurs, students, businessmen and women, as well as those who are thirsty for knowledge on current economic trends, global conditions, opportunities, and case studies. We are an educational provider and knowledge hub for global business information – a think tank and development tool for the budding entrepreneur, investor, student, or businessperson.

We form part of a group of companies that specialise in international business, investing, accounting, tax and educational solutions and have used this strong history and experience to help our students realise their full potential and navigate the world of entrepreneurship, business and the business of starting up new ventures through our educational offering.

We at the Institute of Business & Tax Excellence harness the power of GLOBALISATION an individual at a time.

Today, it has become a norm for individuals to feel isolated, sad, depressed, anxious, stressed, confused and angry. Our health has been drastically threatened by the outbreak of Coronavirus. The entire world is going through a massive shift. Yet, we as leaders are expected to still be ahead of the game.

The most common critical questions most leaders are facing is how do we manage our business and employees during this time?

How do we navigate through this pathway with so many challenges colliding together at once?

How do we move forward in such an uncertain period?

How deep will this impact on the business function and future?

How long will this uncertainty last?

These questions can cripple us and in turn have negative impact on our business. We often feel very unstable whilst sailing our ship during this rough sea. How is it even possible to allow others like employees to board our ship when our ship is rocky? The truth is, we as the business leaders, were expected to lead and more so during this time of Covid-19. We are the vehicles who provides structural support and reduce the friction. So, how do we strengthen ourselves, so we are able to support others?

Deal with human tragedy as a priority. People are human and first look at their survival and basic needs before anything else.

Provide clear and concise direction. A leader cannot empower a team if there is any uncertainty in direction or priority.

Maintain structure and stability by having daily calls and meetings at a fixed time every day. By bringing structure to your employees, you have things in your control. It also helps with the mental health and stability of your employees as well as yours.

Transparency is imperative. Leaders must have faith in their employees. This will move them from a space of crisis to an environment of opportunity where people are developed and use their initiative. They will take more responsibility where they nurture a greater sense of empowerment and growth. Indeed, they will be more responsive and more responsible.

Allow for conversations. Remove the tense environment and create a platform where people can openly discuss their ideas, questions, and concerns with any fear of being judged. Teams must feel free to have robust debates if these debates contribute to the growth of the company.

Lastly, leaders must maintain their sense of well-being. What is needed is clarity of purpose, sound judgement, creativity, and inspiration. In a competitive and fast changing world, it will be a dynamic leader who will thrive and who will tackle challenges with aplomb and confidence.

The International Institute of Business & Tax Excellence aims to empower, educate, and motivate individuals to reach their full potential and harness their strengths to address the negative impacts of Covid19 in business, personally and in society. Contact us today for a tailored solution to your organisation, presented online or in person.

# BECOME A MEMBER

[PPFSA.ORG.ZA](http://PPFSA.ORG.ZA)



## Our objectives and Character:

Provide a platform for all professionals to stimulate intellectual debate on the progressive agenda.

- > Enable continuous interactions between various progressive formations and professionals.
- > Leverage and harness the capacity of professionals to engender an inclusive economic growth and combat the triple challenge of: Poverty, Inequality & Unemployment.
- > Seek mechanisms to ensure that the public discourse in the country is balanced and progressive and promote the patriotism of its citizens.

We will do this by availing our skills and expertise and engaging at a strategic level with government and the private sector.

## Character of the PPF:

- > The PPF is non-racial, non-sexist, non-xenophobic and non-afrophobic
- > The PPF is a South African based organisation and has a national, continental and international focus.
- > The PPF seeks to attract professionals, academia, intelligentsia and entrepreneurs who align themselves with progressive movements and who aspire to progressive ideals such as those enshrined in the Freedom Charter and the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

## ***Building Africa's productive capacity through partnership***

The PPF believes that the political, social and economic history and destiny of South Africa is intertwined with that of the African continent. Since 1994 the Government has steered South Africa into a progressive, respectful and collaborative contributor to the deepening of democracy, self-determination and prosperity throughout Africa. In addition, the performance of Africa's economy has begun to defy Afro-pessimism, with more than half of the 10 fastest growing global economies now being African.

- >The PPF will therefore enhance all efforts to foster alliances with progressive African professionals, businessmen and entrepreneurs, in order to maximize the continent's productive capacity.
- > The PPF will assist in fully integrating African professionals and businessmen in the diaspora into South African society as valuable and active participants.
- > The PPF will not tolerate xenophobia/afrophobia and will actively work to eliminating it.

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