



PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS FORUM

FRIDAY 5

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TOP #5 TRENDING ARTICLES

Dr Fikeni appointed PSC Commissioner (SA news)

President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed Dr Somadoda Fikeni for a five-year term of office as Commissioner of the Public Service Commission. The President made this appointment in terms of Section 196(7)(a), read with Section 196(10) of the Constitution. The Public Service Commission derives its mandate from Sections 195 and 196 of the Constitution. (SA news, 2021)

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Africa & the USA under Biden (Mail & Guardian)

The election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as president and vice-president of the United States, respectively, has inspired hope in America's revival as a responsible and committed player in multilateralism. (Monyae, 2021)

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Tender for vaccine storage & distribution to be issued (MoneyWeb)

South Africa's health ministry will issue a tender to store and distribute Covid-19 vaccines on February 5, it said on Thursday, in an effort to speed up a vaccine rollout that opposition leaders and scientists have said is too slow. (Dludla, Reuters, 2021)

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Min Mboweni dissolves IRBA Board (MoneyWeb)

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni has dissolved the entire board of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (Irba), the finance ministry announced on Thursday. The statement says Mboweni met with the Irba board of directors on January 26 to be briefed on the position the board had taken in the appointment last year of Jenitha John as CEO, a position she assumed in June 2020. (Khoza & Madisa, 2021)

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5 important things in SA this week (Business Tech)

Global Covid-19 infections have hit 101 million confirmed, with the death toll reaching 2.19 million. In South Africa, there have been 7,150 new cases, taking the total reported to 1,437,798. Deaths have reached 43,105 (a daily increase of 555), while recoveries have climbed to 1,272,197, leaving the country with a balance of 122,496 active cases. (BusinessTech, 2021)

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENCY

KASHIF WICOMB

***Co Ops key to SMME growth
...& Marcus Jooste of Steinhoff
still running free & living a
private life of luxury.***

The PPF attended the ANC Lekgotla on the weekend of 22 January. One of the submissions we made was the focused promotion and establishment of Co Operatives to organize SMME's in a way in which SMME's can provide goods to large customers, such as the public sector.

It is trite that the biggest challenges SMME's face are cash flow; the financial incapacity to fulfil large orders; ability and time it requires to complete tenders; tender conditions which many SMME's are not able to comply with; the gap between delivery of goods and payment.

The Co Operatives can address many of these challenges and will organize, manage, and advance SMME's in a particular sector and even in a particular region and or province.

The Co Op will act as the marketer, advisor, bidder, and wholesaler of the SMME's for large orders. It may even supply the raw material for manufacturing at the onset and deduct the costs when payment is received. Co Ops can appoint business advisors who will advise SMME's on cash flow and global best practices.

The Co Op model is real empowerment of SMME's. It allows the SMME to still operate as a standalone business with its management while at the same time pool their capacities and skills to meet the demands of large customers.

To learn from history and take the good out of the atrocious: During Apartheid and the economic sanctions against South Africa, Co- Operatives / Ko-Operasies organized, advanced, and allowed small Afrikaaner farmers to operate globally. As examples Volkskas, started as a co-operative bank which is today ABSA; Bokomo Foods (Bolandse Kooperatiewe Molenaars) started as a wheat co-operative and is now one of SA's largest manufacturers of cereals (Weetbix, ProNutro etc).

A well managed Co Op can become a market dominator in its sector and be very successful which in turn translate into a successful SMME. Co Operatives can work in advancing and growing SMME's, be competitive while at the same time allowing SMME's to retain their independence and not suffocate their entrepreneurial flair.

The PPF calls on the State to refocus on the Co Op model as a vehicle to organize and empower SMME's across all sectors.

Co Ops must be one of the models which receives preferential status in all public sector tenders especially tenders for the manufacturing of goods.

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

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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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