



**DRAFT SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITIES (SETAs) GRANT REGULATIONS- 4(4)**  
**COMMENT ON DISCUSSION PAPER: THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**(DHET) AND BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA**

The South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF), a member of BUSA, notes the Minister (the Minister) of Higher Education, Science and Innovation's invitation to BUSA to extend discussions around the SETA Grant Regulations in light of the radical changes to the South African and world economies as a result of the COVID 19 epidemic and, in South Africa's case, other exacerbating factors.

Whilst accepting in principle that such discussions should be entered into, SAAFF would like it to be known that, prior to any such discussions, the following need to take place:

1. The Minister be held accountable for the arbitrary and unlawful manner in which he attempted to reformulate the original Grant Regulations;
2. The Grant proportions (Mandatory/ Discretionary) must immediately be reinstated to the levels pertaining before the Minister's actions; and
3. That mechanisms be put in place preventing the Minister or any other party from amending these Regulations without the prior consent of organised business in the future.

These demands are submitted in light of the following considerations:

In taking the arbitrary and unlawful actions which he did, the Minister subjected organised business and the taxpayer to a total waste of expenditure, expertise and other resources for a purely political agenda at a time when such purposeless wastage can be least afforded.

As the source of the monies used to fund both the SETA Grants and the National Skills Fund, business has a vested interest in ensuring that these funds are disbursed so as to ensure maximum impact in terms of economic growth.

At this time when business activity is at a low point, businesses should be urgently and intensively training their people to prepare for the "next normal" and to take full advantage of the opportunities offered. However, because of the economic downturn, businesses have very little funds of their own to do so.

In the result, it is the funding generated through the Skills Development Levy which needs to be deployed in a way which best prepares businesses for survival in the current climate and for the future. However, there is far too much uncertainty at present for businesses to consider any future planning. In this context it is incumbent on Government to create a framework of legislative certainty which cannot be tampered with at whim to serve political interests.

Once the errors of the past have been rectified and steps taken to prevent recurrence thereof, then SAAFF looks forward to pursuing discussions which will create a robust framework on which business can build to achieve sustainable economic growth.