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MEDIA STATEMENT – NAFCOOC

To: Print and Electronic Media Houses

Subject: NAFCOOC's response to Bidvest donation to deep cleaning services to Gauteng Schools at the cost of SMMEs business opportunity.

From: NAFCOOC (NATIONAL AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY)

Date: 22nd May 2020

The National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC) leadership and members have had an opportunity to read and deliberate on the letter and Press Statement sent to us about the donation by Bidvest to the Gauteng Department of Education. The letter states that it will be donating deep cleaning services to 577 schools. In the letter to the department of education in Gauteng, they mention that they will be doing a presentation to the department which they will demonstrate a workplace readiness system, this is not mentioned in the public statement by Bidvest. It is our view that the donation by Bidvest is a ruse and they are indirectly making a proposal to supply a tracking and tracing technology contract, which would in turn give them a much bigger return than what they would have put into the donation.

“Many of our members who make up the majority of Small business in South Africa supplying cleaning, catering, security and laundry services have complained that BIDVEST is already monopolising government contracts and private sector. The pie is simply not big enough for them, the COVID-19 pandemic has already robbed many of our Small medium enterprises of their livelihoods. As the biggest Chamber in South Africa that is representing SMMEs, we simply cannot stand by and watch all COVID-19 related business contracts go to the white monopoly capital with most black businesses not being included. What is more alarming is that small businesses have the capacity to deliver and yet many are left out of the procurement process of COVID-19 services.” Mr. Stephen Sikhosana – Secretary of NAFCOOC and President of National Industrial Chamber

“Our government has not given enough attention to empowering small businesses to keep afloat during the pandemic by failing to utilise black businesses that supply PPEs, cleaning, and manufacturing of hospital equipment needed during this crisis. It is not through the lack of trying that we voice out our dissatisfaction now. NAFCOOC as a chamber of commerce of industry boasts lists of qualifying SMME'S that are equipped to offer the services. They cannot afford to offer millions worth of donations in exchange to present their offerings” Mr. Gilbert Mosena, Acting President of NAFCOOC.

FACTS ABOUT NAFCOOC:

The National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC) is a Federated Chamber comprised of over twenty industry specific sectors of the economy with approximately 2.3 million total membership and a target of 5m by 2023. It was established in 1964 after consultation with OR Tambo in Zambia and remain one of the largest business chambers in South Africa with representation in all 9 provinces, all regions and local municipality levels of South Africa. NAFCOOC's main objective is to promote and encourage the development of small business in South Africa and thereby draw the majority from the peripheries to the frontlines of economic activity and decision making. One of our founding Presidents is Dr. Richard Maponya and its Head Quarters are situated at Dr. Richard Maponya House in RIVONIA-JHB RSA.



“NAFCOC encourages and gives support to our members to register on the Central Supply Database, Provincial and Local Government databases and keep their business compliance up to date, what is then the point of all that if they are constantly overlooked and white monopoly companies and other big corporations like BIDVEST are used? “

NAFCOC did reach out to the Department of Health when the first cases of COVID-19 and offered a joint program of action amongst black business and government to work together in offering solutions to the pandemic. We have never given any response and have been excluded from Business for South Africa has been procuring PPEs for South Africa.

We continue to plead with our government not to ignore the plight of small business during this pandemic , small enterprises are the biggest employers and one of the largest contributors to the country’s GDP.Our economy is at a fragile state, the majority of people suffering are black small business.

Ends

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