**From:** baphithizeli dludlu [

**Sent:** Thursday, 17 June 2021 4:27 PM  
**To:** Henro Kruger <

**Subject:** Re: Ease of Doing Business Bill -- SBI participation

**The Ease of Doing Business Bill**

From as early as the mid-1990s, administration after administration has made a commitment to making small business development the backbone of this economy. The latest such commitment was made in the National Development Plan – namely, an aspiration for small businesses to generate 90% of all jobs in South Africa. According to the CEO Initiative, to achieve this goal, we would need to create nearly 40 000 sustainable small businesses every year.

It’s common cause that we are far from achieving this aspiration. Even before covid-19, small businesses were struggling to breathe thanks to long-standing underlying conditions: late payments by big businesses, state-owned enterprises and state departments; recessionary conditions; rolling power outages; and crippling red tape.

The pandemic highlighted these difficulties.

Worse, despite these longstanding commitments to small businesses, the policy and regulatory environment has often lagged behind. Also, policy-making has been hobbled by lack of shared empirical evidence and ideological differences, and support for small business is too fragmented to be impactful.

The Ease of Doing Business Bill is a step in the right direction – working towards evidence-based policy making, support and performance monitoring for the small business segment of the economy. The Small Business Institute welcomes the opportunity to engage with this Bill.