To: The Speaker of the National Assembly

Parliament of South Africa

Ms. Thandi Modise

Dear Madam

**Re: Support for Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2020 (Private Member's Bill)**

We are writing this correspondence in general support of the Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2020 (Private Member’s Bill).  Sakeliga welcomes any such initiatives to the extent that they assist in overcoming the burdens of ‘red tape’ and unnecessary encumberments to commerce in South Africa. We will be following the progress on this proposed legislation with great interest and would be pleased to provide input and analysis thereto in due course.

**Request for a Covid-19-related extension:** Moreover, considering the impact on commerce of the Covid-19 measures currently in force and the disruptions to commercial operations and administration, we refer to our letter to parliament and relevant state departments dated 6 April 2020. In our letter we have requested an extension of comment periods until after the National Lockdown. We are concerned that, owing to the National Lockdown, parties wishing to comment extensively on various policy proposals would be unable to do so. We have, therefore, requested extension of the comment periods on various proposed policies and legislation including the private member’s bill in question.

Thanking you in advance for taking time to attend to our correspondence.

Yours faithfully,