**African Christian Democratic Party**

 **10 May 2022

ACDP Parliament
Budget Vote 36: Small Business Development
Speech by ACDP Deputy President, Wayne Thring MP**

**ACDP calls on small business sector not to flout constitutional rights of their employees by implementing vaccine mandates**

“Honourable House Chairperson,

As we consider this budget vote, the ACDP is cognizant of the fact that in most developed and developing economies, up to 70% of the jobs created emanates from the small business sector. The critical importance of small businesses cannot be over emphasized and while there may be those who seek to destroy or diminish the role of small business, we cannot allow this to take place.

The ACDP is aware that the Department of Small Business Development is tasked with the responsibility of leading and coordinating an integrated approach to the promotion and development of entrepreneurship, small businesses and co-operatives, within an enabling legislative and policy environment, to increase employment and reduce poverty and inequality. However, with a three-year budget extending to 2024/25 of over R7.8 billion, over four programmes, this is easier said than done.

If the values of this Department, such as integrity and professionalism, are to be upheld, then it is important that some of the recommendations of the Committee are fast-tracked.

The National Small Enterprise Amendment Bill, together with the mergers and necessary organograms must be concluded speedily. The outstanding forensic investigation must be brought to finality and the investigation report of the Auditor General must be made public, so that where necessary corrective action can be taken, and consequence management applied. It is unacceptable that Sefa has not supplied the Committee with a list of co-operatives that were funded from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and using the POPIA Act as an excuse will not hold water. Remember, the NLB refused to release the names of beneficiaries citing the POPIA act, but when forced to disclose, the rot and corruption was revealed.

In conclusion, the ACDP calls on the small business sector not to be used as government agents to flout the section 12(2)(c) constitutional rights of their employees, by implementing vaccine mandates in the workplace, when science shows that both the vaccinated and unvaccinated can contract Covid and Professor Shabir Madhi, who advised the CCC, is on record saying that the vaccine drive did not work because vaccines don’t prevent infection. In addition, he said that those with previous infection (90% of the country has immunity) have as much protection as anyone who has had an MRNA jab. Its time to stop the madness.

I thank you.”

**-ENDS-

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