



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission to South Africa  
Head of Delegation

Pretoria, 22-09-09  
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**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF:**  
**Mr. R. MOORE, DIRECTOR, DG DEV/E**

**Subject: Weekly Press Review – South Africa (14 - 20 September 2009)**

*Please note that this Press Review reflects the views of the newspapers covered,  
and not the views of the Delegation*

A Business Day article said that positive signs had emerged from the Kleinmond EU-SA summit to indicate that the two sides may be closer to a resolution over EPA differences.

Trade union federation Cosatu sharply criticised Minister in the Presidency, Trevor Manuel, for accumulating "too much power".

Health Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, admitted that the government would not meet its target of providing life-prolonging treatment to 80% of people with HIV by 2011.

Treasury official Kenneth Brown said provinces were currently wasting billions on unnecessary expenditure.

Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, warned that tax revenue was expected to be at least R60bn short of target, after an earlier forecast of R50bn to R60bn.

Environmental Affairs Minister, Buyelwa Sonjica, said it would be "unrealistic" for developing countries, including SA, to commit to carbon reduction targets.

The President of Athletics South Africa, Leonard Chuene, admits to knowing that athlete Caster Semenya had been subjected to gender testing in SA before she left for Berlin, raising increasing criticism about the political use of this matter.

  
**Gerry McGovern**  
**Acting Head of Delegation**

cc: Ms Wiedey-Nippold; MM Cocchi; Navarro; Ms Brewka Pino (DEV); MM Thompson; Wunenburger; Casella; (TRADE); MM Quince; Trimiño Pérez; Krastev (AIDCO); MM Sivenas; Mizzi; Ms Saarela (AGRI); MM Clancy; Jennings (COMM); Delegations in SADC region; MM Wood; Ms McLauchlan (EP Secretariat)

**SA-EU summit lifts hopes for Economic Partnership Agreement resolution**

**Business Day, 15/09/09**

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=81458>

A Business Day article said that positive signs had emerged from the Kleinmond EU-SA summit, indicating that the two sides could be closer to resolving their differences over the regional EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement. The EU said in its statement after the summit that there had been "a frank and open discussion" on the EPA. "We agreed to urgently pursue the negotiation and resolution of all outstanding issues, with a view to a prompt and mutually satisfactory conclusion that supports regional integration and development in Southern Africa" the statement said.

**Cosatu criticises Planning Minister Trevor Manuel**

**Mail & Guardian, 18/09/09**

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-09-18-manuel-caught-in-cosatus-crosshairs>

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) sharply criticised Minister in the Presidency Trevor Manuel for accumulating "too much power", warning that if his intentions for the National Planning Commission come to fruition, he will become SA's de facto "imperial" prime minister. Cosatu also called on Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel to urgently assemble his team, saying that his economic policy mandate was being "negated" by Manuel's plans. This latest salvo against the government indicates growing tension in the ruling alliance over economic policy. Cosatu's warnings are contained in a political report to be presented at its upcoming 10th national congress.

**SA to miss 2011 AIDS treatment goal**

**Business Day, 16/09/09**

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=81563>

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi admitted that the government would not meet its target of providing life-prolonging treatment to 80% of people with HIV by 2011, due to logistical problems, a lack of personnel and a shortage of funds. While activists and doctors have repeatedly questioned the feasibility of the government's goal, spelt out in its 2007 five-year AIDS plan, this is the first time a top official has admitted that the government would not meet its target.

**Treasury Review shows provinces are wasting billions**

**Cape Times, 17/09/09**

[http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=13&art\\_id=vn20090917041834651C739766](http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20090917041834651C739766)

Treasury official Kenneth Brown, briefing parliamentary journalists on the Provincial Budgets and Expenditure Review, a detailed analysis of provincial spending trends in education, health, social development, human settlements, land and agriculture, and roads and transport, said provinces were currently wasting billions on items such as cellphones,

catering, and costly self-promoting advertisements. Brown said a government-wide expenditure review was under way and provincial budgets were being realigned.

### **Finance Minister warns of higher deficit**

**Business Report, 16/09/09**

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=564&fArticleId=5166269>

Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan warned that tax revenue was expected to be at least R60bn short of target, after an earlier forecast of R50bn to R60bn. Dawie Roodt, the chief economist of the Efficient Group, forecast a bigger shortfall of R70bn and estimated that expenditure would overrun by between R10bn and R20bn. In addition, he believed there would be additional funding requirements of up to R20bn from various loss making state enterprises.

### **Environment Minister defends SA's climate change stance**

**Sunday Independent, 20/09/09**

<http://www.sundayindependent.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=5171952>

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-09-16-sa-hopes-for-favourable-deal-at-climate-conference>

Environmental Affairs Minister Buyelwa Sonjica, speaking to the media ahead of her departure to the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate in Washington, said that, while SA was a culprit in carbon emission because of its reliance on coal for energy, she believed it would be "unrealistic" for developing countries, including SA, to commit to carbon reduction targets, when research had shown it was developed countries that had to take the most urgent steps. Sonjica reiterated the SA government's stance that any deal reached in Copenhagen should contain a balance between adaptation and mitigation, and between development and climate imperatives. A Mail & Guardian article (16/09/09) reported Sonjica stating that while SA was still in the process of calculating the amount of money it needed to address climate change challenges, African countries needed between \$200 and 400-billion.

### **ASA President Chuene admits lying in athlete Semenya saga**

**Sunday Independent, 20/09/09**

<http://www.sundayindependent.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=5172059>

The President of Athletics South Africa (ASA), Leonard Chuene, finally admitted that he had known all along that athlete Caster Semenya had been subjected to gender testing in SA before she left for Berlin (see WPR 24-30 August 2009). Chuene apologised unconditionally for denying any knowledge of the tests conducted in Pretoria on August 7, to which Semenya had been accompanied by her coach, Michael Seme. However, he refused to apologise for allowing her to compete or for trying to "protect her privacy". Chuene said Semenya's future would be determined by the outcome of the pending IAAF test results, once they had been formally presented to the ASA.