



18 February 2025

Media statement

For immediate release

COPE Statement on the National Budget: Prioritise the People, Restore Trust and Grow the Economy

For immediate release

The Congress of the People (COPE) calls on the Minister of Finance to deliver a budget that prioritises heightened economic growth to assuage the plight of the majority of South Africa and meet other exigencies.

The profound and prolonged crisis of unemployment, poverty, and inequality has now reached an inflection point. Something is bound to go wrong.

The Minister must heed SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter's warning about increasing taxes. That would indeed be counterintuitive. It would dampen investment and undermine economic growth.

Economic growth and the restoration of essential services go hand in glove and must be taken care of jointly.

The fact that 40% of our population is unemployed is a ticking time bomb, with the fuse wire growing ever shorter. It is untenable to have a budget where 24% has to be set aside for servicing the state debt and more than 36% going to salaries of state employees. That the state has allowed the budget to be so terribly skewed is a severe indictment on the whole political establishment.

Beware the wrath of the nation!

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, poor service delivery and corruption have left communities feeling abandoned and betrayed. The trust deficit between citizens and leadership has widened.

COPE warns that austerity measures targeting social services while billions are lost to corruption will push the country further into crisis.

The government must:

- Prioritise job creation – Invest in industries that absorb the unemployed, particularly youth and informal workers.
- Support struggling households – Strengthen social safety nets to prevent extreme poverty and hunger.
- End corruption and mismanagement – Redirect wasted funds towards impactful economic programs.
- Ensure inclusive economic growth – Empower small businesses and marginalised communities to participate meaningfully in the economy.


- Downsize government expeditiously.
- Remodels local government.

The Constitution demands a government that is democratic, accountable, responsive and transparent. Our government has been anything but accountable and responsive since 2009. COPE demand a budget that stimulates economic growth across all sectors and puts the welfare of people before politics.

**Issued By: Pake Dikgetsi; 082 302 2935/ 061 397 3252.
COPE Acting National Chairperson**

For more information:
COPE MEDIA OFFICER
Aubrey Molobi: 061 994 7572

25 Medgate Centre. 05 Kingfisher Street, Helderkruijn, Roodeport, 1724
Johannesburg 2092

 Tel: 083 450 1358

 media@copesa.org.za

www.copesa.org