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Media Statement:

COPE Demands Economic Reforms Following Hollow Mid-term budget-speech

While the Minister of Finance may have little wiggle room in today's medium-term budget statement, most South Africans have absolutely no wiggle room whatsoever. The economic situation for most householders is very bleak.

COPE demands that the government take South Africans' plight very seriously.

COPE wishes to see the following being done by the Minister:


- A very strong emphasis be placed on Economic Growth and Job Creation. We want to hear of policy shifts that will stimulate economic growth and create jobs, especially for the youth of our nation.
- We want to see clear plans to manage and reduce the national debt which is causing 22% of the budget to be used to service the national debt. This must be done to ensure fiscal sustainability and maintain investor confidence.
- Public Services and Social Grants must be protected, and the government must desist from raiding pension funds. The most vulnerable populations must be protected, and healthcare and education must be adequately funded.
- We also call for detailed plans for infrastructure development, particularly in energy, transport, and water supply, to improve the overall efficiency of the economy and create jobs.
- The minister must comply with the Constitution by ensuring that accountability, responsiveness, and transparency prevail. Corruption is still rampant in government and that is intolerable. There must be genuine political will to tackle corruption. The SCORPIONS must be brought back.
- The Private Sector must be encouraged to partner with the government in infrastructure development, particularly in respect of renewable energy.

The Minister must not only focus on immediate fiscal challenges but must also lay the groundwork for sustainable economic growth and development.

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For more information: Contact COPE MEDIA: 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