

**Special Projects**  
Writer: Gwen Watkins  
Advertising: John Davis

Published in  
The Star,  
Pretoria News,  
The Mercury  
& Cape Times

# Temporary En

# Call for ban on TES threatens

**T**he call for an outright ban on the temporary employment services industry (TES) threatens the livelihood of some 500 000 workers and their families, a loss of R26 billion to annual GDP, immediate cessation of around 10 000 current learnerships, dire repercussions on local competitiveness and an outflow of foreign direct investment.

This, at a time when South Africa is facing one of the worst economic crises in

years and when job creation is critical on the country's economic and social agendas.

"Some government members and unions are calling for the ban on labour brokers, largely precipitated by the actions of rogue TES providers," explains John Botha, the Chief Operations Officer of the Confederation of Associations in the Private Employment Sector (CAPES).

"I believe that the current labour legislation adequately addresses the use of

TES/labour brokers and that it is the lack of effective law enforcement on the part of

## **In the best interests of the social and economic welfare of the country**

the Department of Labour that is at the core of the issue.

"Resolving this will be in the best interests of the social

and economic welfare of the country, as opposed to an outright ban.

"On behalf of our stakeholders, CAPES tabled issues around TES regulation at NEDLAC as early as 2005 and, despite the business constituency making strong recommendations and even tabling draft regulations on a Private Employment Agency Board, there has been very little progress.

"Now suddenly there is an unsubstantiated call for an outright ban on temporary

employment from the Minister of Labour, which poses a huge concern for us.

"This critical issue requires serious, well-considered resolution. It negatively affects millions of lives dependent on the salaries of the affected temporary workers and temporary labour is critical to the continued competitive existence of all industries that experience cyclical peaks and troughs.

"It would be entirely reckless and irresponsible to use this issue for political advantage.