

17 June 2026

Mr E. Godongwana, MP
Minister of Finance
National Treasury
Private Bag X115
PRETORIA
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By email: minreg@treasury.gov.za

Dear Mr Godongwana

URGENT NEED TO EXTEND FUEL LEVY CUT AMIDST CONTINUING GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS

I write to you in my capacity as Head of Public Relations for the South African civil rights organisation AfriForum, which represents more than 300 000 members. As a civil rights society organisation, we are responsible to protect the interests of the broader South African public, as well as their rights.

As you are aware, the continuing conflict in the Middle East has caused (and still causes) the oil price to surge considerably. Fuel prices have similarly increased significantly, which are causing a ripple effect throughout the global and our local economy as almost all other prices rise largely due to the increased cost of transport. AfriForum wrote a letter to you in March to request that a fuel levy cut be implemented rather than the planned fuel levy hike. We welcomed the news that you had decided to implement the fuel levy cut. As part of your announcement, you stipulated that this temporary cut will only last until 1 July. It is regarding this detail that I am writing to you today.

The conflict in the Middle East remains unresolved, however, with tensions remaining perilously high. Domestic fuel prices show no sign of decreasing significantly, and experts warn that the ripple effects of the surge in April have not yet completely hit the South African economy. It was reported earlier this week that inflation had climbed to 4,5%, with higher transport costs cited as the main cause.

AfriForum therefore urges you to cut this fuel levy permanently, which would be the ideal solution. The second-best alternative would be to cut the fuel levy for an extended period of time beyond 1 July, as oil prices remain high and further shocks in the near future are very likely. The temporary fuel levy cut offers only short-term relief, because it just postpones the price pressure on South African consumers and the economy. It kicks the can down the road, rather than helping consumers and the economy avoid the worst of the crisis.

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Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30
Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.
Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

It is therefore imperative to either scrap the fuel levy permanently or at least extend it considerably. It is the government's responsibility to help consumers and the economy avoid such a crisis as effectively as possible, and not simply to postpone the impact for a short while.

Yours sincerely



Ernst van Zyl
Head: Public Relations
AfriForum
Cell: 081 525 8081
Email: ernst.vanzyl@afriforum.co.za