

02 September 2026

Mr E. Godongwana, MP
Minister of Finance
National Treasury
Private Bag X115
PRETORIA
0001

By email: minreg@treasury.gov.za
Cc: DGRegistry@treasury.gov.za; awicomb@parliament.gov.za;
tsepanya@parliament.gov.za; nokwanda.mahori@treasury.gov.za

Dear Mr Godongwana

URGENT NEED TO REINSTATE FUEL LEVY RELIEF AND TO AUDIT THE LEVY FOR REFORM

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.

On 17 June 2026 I wrote to you urging that the temporary general fuel levy reduction be made permanent or, at minimum, extended well beyond the 1 July 2026 deadline. We noted that oil prices had remained high, the global energy crisis remained unresolved, and warned that a short-lived cut would merely postpone pressure on consumers, businesses and the economy rather than help them avoid it. The levy relief was nevertheless fully withdrawn from 1 July 2026. Fuel prices have not fallen to pre-shock levels. In fact, the delayed shock to consumers and the economy that AfriForum warned about in June, is now here. This week, petrol prices are set to rise by a further R1.34 per litre and diesel by between R2.94 and R3.15 per litre. Transport costs continue to have an inflationary ripple effect through into the prices of food and other basic necessities. The conditions that justified the original cut have not disappeared. AfriForum therefore repeats its request: Ideally, a permanent reduction in the general fuel levy; or at least a substantial, time-bound reinstatement of relief while oil prices and geopolitical risk remain elevated.

In addition, for long term sustainability, AfriForum demands an independent audit of the fuel levy (including the general fuel levy, carbon fuel levy, Road Accident Fund levy and related slate mechanisms). The audit should examine:

- how the various components are calculated and applied;
- whether the current structure is efficient, transparent and proportionate;
- what these funds are used for; and

June 2024

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

- the economic impact on households, transport operators, agriculture and small business; and
- options for lasting reform to relieve pressure on an already overtaxed population.

If such an audit or reform process is initiated, AfriForum would like to be part of the process, to make presentations on behalf of consumers.

It remains the government's responsibility to cushion households and the economy as effectively as possible from global shocks, not merely to delay the impact for a few months. A tax that forms a large share of the pump price should also be put under proper scrutiny to explore possible reforms. We would welcome a meeting or a written reply setting out the Treasury's assessment of the current levy in light of prices prevailing in September 2026, and confirming whether an audit and reform process will be initiated.

Yours sincerely



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