

**Acting Director-General,
Ms Jacky Molisane Calls for
Urgent Action on TERS
Backlog to Safeguard
Distressed Businesses**



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Acting Director-General, Ms Jacky Molisane Calls for Urgent Action on TERS Backlog to Safeguard Distressed Businesses

Acting Director-General (ADG) for Employment and Labour, Ms Jacky Molisane has called for greater urgency, agility and collaboration in processing Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (TERS) applications, warning that delays could undermine government efforts to save vulnerable businesses and protect jobs amid ongoing economic challenges.

Chairing a strategic engagement involving officials from the Department of Employment and Labour, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and other stakeholders, Molisane stressed that the growing backlog of TERS applications requires immediate attention and a more responsive approach to adjudication.

The meeting focused on the status of TERS applications, the functioning of adjudication structures, the establishment of a newly constituted Appeals Committee, and measures required to improve turnaround times and ensure that relief

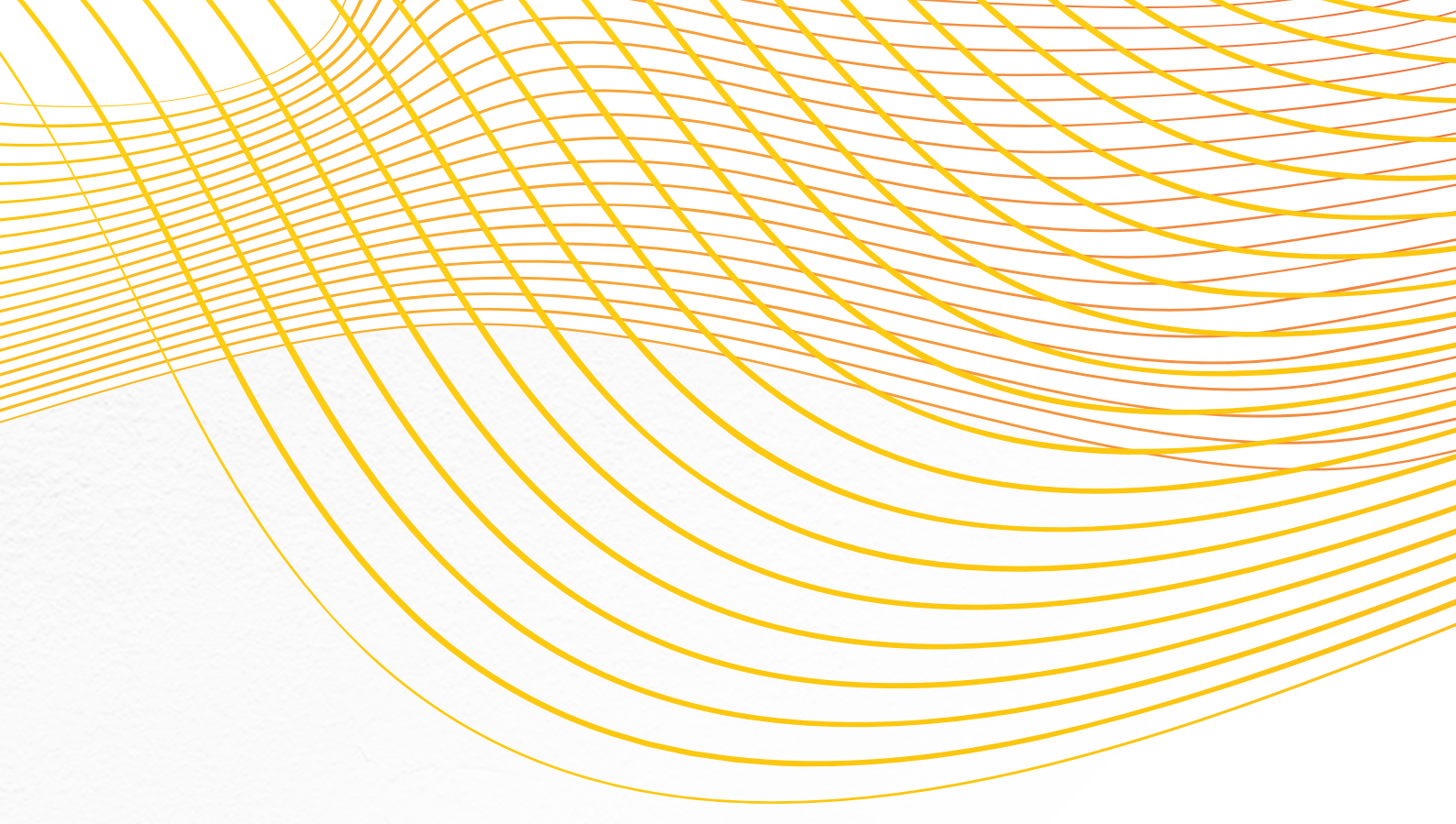
funding reaches qualifying businesses before financial distress becomes irreversible.

“The challenge is not the availability of money, but the capacity and agility within which we process these applications,” Molisane told participants.

She noted that government had increased funding earmarked for TERS interventions to approximately R2.6 billion, recognising the growing number of businesses facing financial hardship. However,

“The challenge is not the availability of money, but the capacity and agility within which we process these applications.” – Ms Jacky Molisane, Acting Director-General

ADG expressed concern that actual disbursements remained significantly below expectations, citing previous disbursements of approximately R260 million, which she described as a poor performance when measured against the scale of available resources and demand.



Ms. Molisane emphasised that government occupies a critical position as a “last line of defence” for companies experiencing severe financial distress and cautioned that delays in assessing applications could result in business closures and job losses that might otherwise have been prevented.

The ADG further encouraged adjudicators to move beyond a purely compliance-driven approach and adopt a stronger commercial and developmental perspective when evaluating applications.

“It should not be a tick-box exercise, but one that understands that this is actually quite a transformative intervention.”

According to Ms. Molisane, adjudicators should balance sound governance requirements with an understanding of the difficult economic environment in which many businesses are operating.

Throughout the meeting, Ms. Molisane repeatedly stressed the need for urgency, stronger institutional coordination, and improved capacity within adjudication structures. She also committed to maintaining active oversight of the process to

ensure that the programme delivers meaningful support to distressed enterprises and preserves employment opportunities.

As discussions concluded, the ADG urged stakeholders to work collectively to accelerate the processing of applications and ensure that TERS fulfils its intended mandate of supporting business sustainability and protecting workers during periods of economic hardship.

“We need to make sure that the R2.6 billion committed to this programme makes a positive intervention in distressed companies and helps save jobs,” stressed ADG Molisane.

The meeting ended with a call for both the CCMA and UIF to intensify efforts to address outstanding applications and prepare the newly established Appeals Committee to begin its work, marking a new phase in the governance and administration of TERS support measures.

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National Economic
Development and
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ONE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNICATING IN ONE VOICE

Physical Address:

Laboria House: 215 Francis Baard Street, PRETORIA

Postal Address:

Private Bag X117, PRETORIA, 0001