



TAYFIN TAXTALK

“Your Empowered Insight into the World of Tax, Business and Personal Finance Issues.”

“THE STATE OF THE NATION – A LAYMAN’S PERSPECTIVE”

DOMESTIC OUTLOOK

According to Treasury:

“South Africa’s GDP growth slowed from 1.3 per cent in 2017 to an estimated 0.7 per cent in 2018. The medium-term outlook is weaker than projected in the 2018 MTBPS. Economic growth is expected to reach 1.5 per cent in 2019, rising to 2.1 per cent by 2021. The revisions take into account weaker investment outcomes in 2018, a more fragile recovery in household income and slower export demand than expected due to moderating global growth. Consumer inflation has also been revised down due to lower oil prices and food inflation than previously assumed”.

The aforementioned jargon is rarely understood by the general populace, however issues surrounding corruption, mismanagement, defalcations and state capture are well understood by all and sundry. The layman knows without fear of contradiction that the fragile domestic outlook is as a result of Government’s failure to properly govern. The undercurrent of this behemoth mess is aligned to the lack of ethics and morality in Government.

One of the central positions of a functioning Government is ethics and morality. In order for society to function well, Government needs to function well, failing which there will never be a just society with moral order. Government is meant to make decisions that are morally (*not politically*) correct in order to associate with the welfare of society. Government is tasked with enforcing the law and the law by implication represents the will of the people.

When Government adopts a parallel system, one for the ordinary folk and the other for politicians then the perceptions of reality becomes distorted. It can be rightly argued that Government aims only to serve the politicians at the expense of its citizens. Government must be cognizant that it is the repository and custodian of people’s values.

The best instrument of power that any Government can exhibit is “*Fairness*” followed by Accountability and Moral & Ethical behavior. This in turn will provide the best blueprint towards an ethical and just society. Citizens are expected to adhere to the provisions of the law however our country appears to expect the law to adhere to the whim of the politicians.

Law is designed to bind society together and instill harmony amongst all the people of the land. The application of law in SA does the opposite. The practical reality is that the law does not fully represent ordinary people purely because Government has a different perception of ethics and morality.

Collectively we are responsible for the chaos that we find ourselves in. We choose leaders based on the criteria of popularity and power. Leadership involves a menu of qualities such as, God fearing, vision, direction, honesty, integrity, amongst others. Politicians and civil servants hardly ever promote a just and orderly society. These civil servants regardless of rank ought to conduct their activities in a manner that does not undermine ethical and moral values.

Morality Upheld

As citizens, members of society, members of a community or ordinary individuals, we are morally obliged to select leaders that correctly represent us. These leaders must do all in their power to safeguard everything that we hold sacred. This commitment must be in all settings, Government, Civic, Religious et al. Most institutions have a minimalist written code of conduct prohibiting bad behavior and self-interests.

The minimum set of principles should be:

“Civil, public officials, community leaders are expected to maintain and strengthen the public’s trust and confidence by demonstrating the highest standards of professional competence, efficiency and effectiveness, upholding the Constitution and the laws and seeking to advance the public good at all times”.

The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

“Wishing all our Clients and Readers a Safe and Joyous Festive Period...”

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For any comments or suggestions regarding this advert or future issues, please contact our offices at 014 592 3234 / management.rtg@taygro.co.za.

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Professional advice should be obtained by all taxpayers.)

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