



public enterprises

Department:
Public Enterprises
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER GORDHAN CONDEMNS UNRULY BEHAVIOUR OF A SMALL CLIQUE AT THE WITS LECTURE

PRETORIA - 07 July 2022- The Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan was invited to deliver a lecture on the reforms of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

We condemn in the strongest terms the unruly behaviour of a small clique who were hell-bent on disrupting the public lecture to mark the Wits University Centenary celebrations tonight.

The conduct by the disruptors posing as guests was appalling to say the least. The event at the Wits School of Governance, one of country's prestigious institutions that develops intellectuals, and conducts research which is invaluable to the reforms being undertaken by government.

The clique was clearly briefed by political forces intent on creating disruption and instability in South Africa. Their aim was not to engage but to intimidate us.

In the Gupta period, under Bell Pottinger's collaboration, Twitter bots were activated every time the Guptas were mentioned.

Similarly, the dissemination of fake news and disinformation started immediately after this event. This is another blatant attempt to mislead the South African public.

The Minister was waiting for questions, he waited until the end. Instead he was the target of a vitriolic, racist attack.

Let us emphasise this most clearly: The Minister was not kicked out. The Minister and DPE will not be intimidated.

Let us repeat, we will not be intimidated nor threatened by their well-orchestrated performance. We will continue to engage stakeholders all over our country without fear so that all South Africans know the truth about corruption and the corrupt.

We thank the University of Witwatersrand for hosting the event in a dignified way

For Media Enquiries contact Richard.mantu@dpe.gov.za or 012 431 1203.

Issued by Department of Public Enterprises

07 July 2022