





### SOUTHERN AFRICA EUROPE CEO DIALOGUE

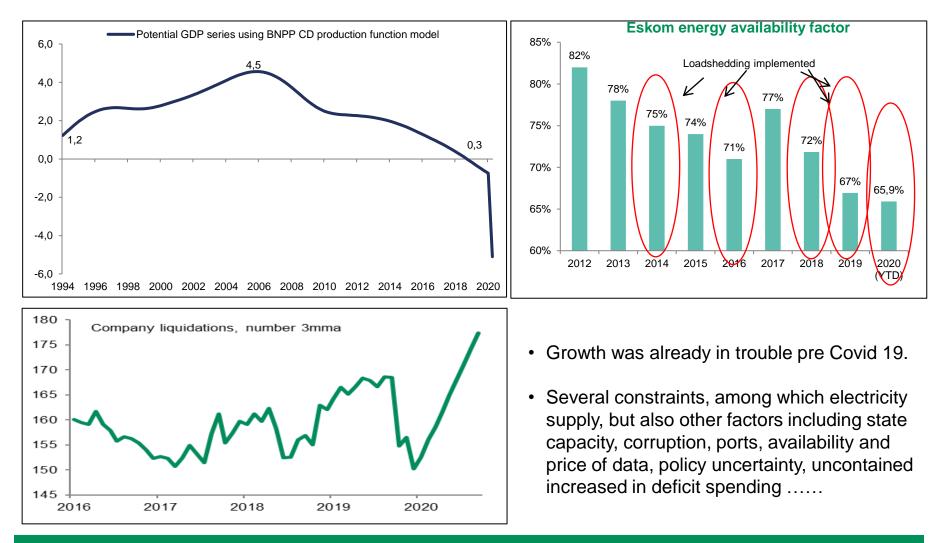
7<sup>th</sup> Edition

Johannesburg – The Capital On The Park & Virtual Platform November 26-27, 2020

BUILDING AN **EXCLUSIVE, INFLUENTIAL COMMUNITY OF LEADERS** FOR GROWING THEIR ENTERPRISES, THEIR COUNTRIES, AND THEIR CONTINENTS

## **PRESENTATION BY VIKAS KHANDELWAL**

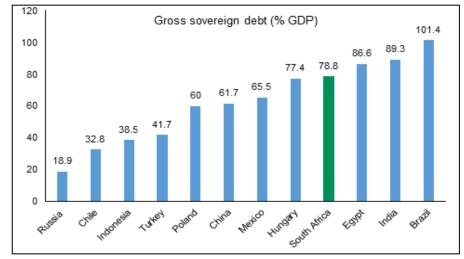
## A bad situation gone worse !



### Covid has made things worse, core issues remain the same

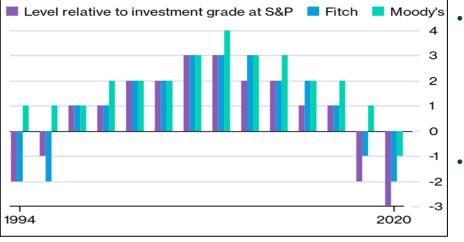


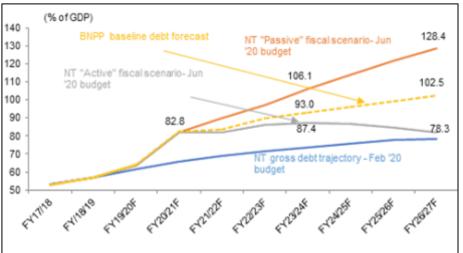
## **Worsening Debt situation impacting credit standing**



#### **Ratings Spiral**

South Africa's foreign-currency debt is rated at the lowest levels yet





- Growth plans have to be accompanied by spending cuts to rein in deficit.
- Risks from politics, trade unions and social pressures emanating from unemployment, poverty and company closures impede government's ability to impact the negative trajectory, e.g., on the target and amount of spending cuts to move state money from consumption towards investment spending.
- BB range indicates 'higher level of concern that deteriorating economic conditions could hinder the issuer's ability to meet its obligations'.



### Accelerate the pace of reforms

### Growth story to be made more credible

IMPLEMENTATION, IMPLEMENTATION, IMPLMENTATION ......

### If risk is high, double the efforts so as to 'make doing business easier'

But the reality is ...

World Bank report 2020 'Doing Business Report' ranks South Africa **84 out of 190** falling behind majority of our BRICS peers. Russia (28), China (31) and India (63). In Africa, Mauritius (13), Rwanda (38) and Kenya (65), all rank way ahead.

If one looks at the detail, some of the key areas of drag -

139th for 'starting a business'

114<sup>th</sup> for 'electricity supply'

145th for 'trading across borders'

Country needs to build on its strengths - independent institutions like the South African Reserve Bank, a solid, well-functioning judiciary and constitution and a world class banking and financial markets sector, all critical for business.

# Government incentive and pace around SUSTAINABILITY (ESG) across all economic vectors

South Africa ranks 138<sup>th</sup> (of 180) in the Global Sustainable Competitive Index (GCSI) by SolAbility.

