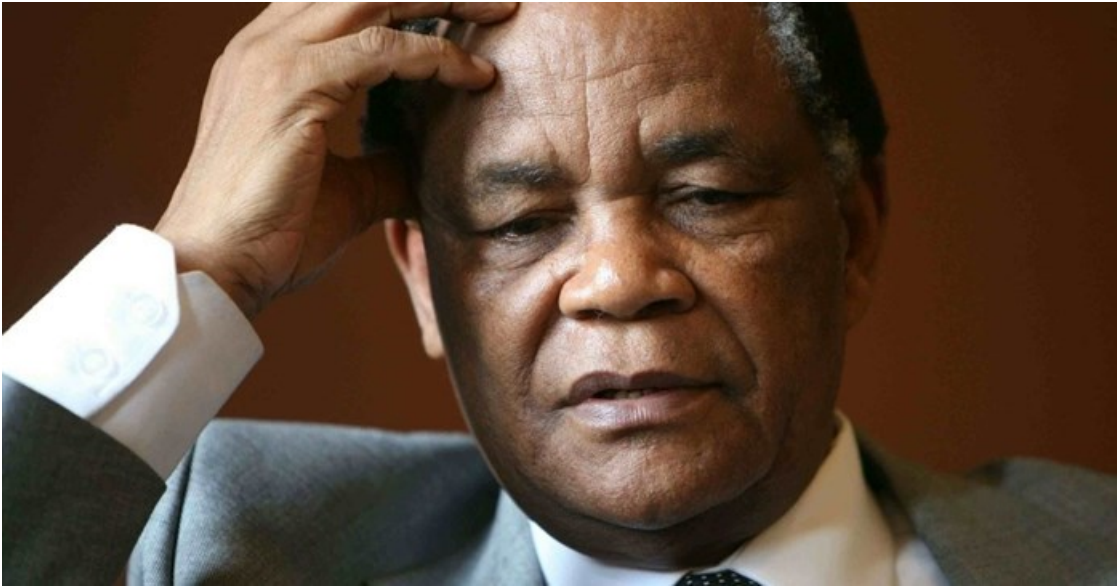


## Political instability affects SA's tax base

A huge deficit, high unemployment numbers and people dependent on social grants are indicators that South Africa's economy is not well.

"We (South Africans) must say to ourselves that our economy is not okay," says Judge Bernard Ngoepe, South Africa's first tax ombud.

"My ultimate question is: Do we really live in a political stable country that allows for a healthy economy? We are becoming a corrupted society. People are employed based on their political connections," he says.



Source: [SA Cricket](#)

He adds: "Just because there is a mere absence of civil war in the country does not imply that we are politically stable as a country.

"When parliament opened, over 400 soldiers of the defence force were deployed for law and order. Can you really argue that it is a political stable country? Something is not right."

Commenting on the burden of tax collection, he says he was concerned that the increased tax bracket will influence the culture of paying tax. "One of the basis for tax collection is that we are forced to pay it, but I think people should also feel morally obliged to pay tax. If we don't spend tax prudently then people will begin to justify their reluctance to pay.

“You never know in what form or way that reluctance will be expressed. Some people come up with very aggressive tax invasion schemes. We are losing billions and billions of rands of money going out of the country as a result,” he says.

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