

ERSA-SARB CONFERENCE

**FINDING A PATH TO
GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA**

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Ann Bernstein

Calumn Hamilton

Carol Newman

Chris Loewald

Dan Andrews

Elizabeth van Renen

Elvis Avenyo

Emmanuel Mensah

Geci Karuri-Sebina

Isaac Kurasha

Ivan Turok

James Hodge

Johann Kirsten

Justin Visagie

Khulekani Mathe

Lawrence Edwards

Lisette IJssel de Schepper

Mamokete Lijane

Marianne Matthee

Mooketsa Ramasodi

Natasha Marrian

Nicola Theron

Paul Court

Roy Havemann

Saul Musker

Stephen Gelb

Thando Vilakazi

Tinashe Kapuya

Vuyo Jack

Wandile Sihlobo

Willem Boshoff

Zukiswa Kimani



ANN BERNSTEIN

**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENTERPRISE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Ann Bernstein is the founder and executive director of the Centre for Development and Enterprise. Since its establishment in 1995, CDE has become a powerful national resource for research-based policy direction and big ideas on topics including economic growth, unemployment, skills and the role of business and markets in development. Ann has written extensively on these issues, vigorously advocating for reform where required.

With a wide network of international and South African experts, she hosts CDE Conversations with global and local leaders and experts; and she and CDE regularly convene discussions on vital national issues across traditional divides. Ann is a frequent commentator on leading media platforms, participates in national and global dialogues, is the editor and often co-author of many CDE publications and is the author of *The Case for Business in Developing Economies* (Penguin 2010).

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CALUMN HAMILTON

**UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN
UNIVERSITY OF WAGENINGEN
RESEARCHER**

Calumn Hamilton is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universities of Groningen and Wageningen, and an affiliate of the Groningen Growth and Development Centre and the STEG research programme. His research focuses on empirical development economics at the macroeconomic level, particularly on structural change, aid effectiveness, global value chains, and productivity growth.

Calumn is also involved in the construction and maintenance of various publicly available large-scale macroeconomic databases.

Calumn has a long-standing association with South African academia; he is involved with the Cluster of Research Excellence in Inequality, Poverty, and Deprivation (CoRE-IPD), in partnership with UCT, and teaches an annual summer school at Stellenbosch Business School.

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CAROL NEWMAN

**TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN,
IRELAND**

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Carol Newman is Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin. An internationally recognised expert in development economics, her research explores the microeconomic foundations of development, focusing on how constraints, such as limited access to markets, finance, or information, affect individual and firm behaviour, and how targeted policies can alleviate these barriers.

She is co-founder of the Trinity Impact Evaluation (TIME) Research Centre, a non-resident Senior Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER and a consultant to the World Bank. Her research includes randomized controlled trials of policy interventions, as well as work on labour markets, firm dynamics, and industrial policy.

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CHRIS LOEWALD

Previous Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank, MPC member and Deputy Director-General for Economic Policy at the National Treasury. Member of the Board of ERSA.

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DAN ANDREWS

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT**
**HEAD OF GROWTH, COMPETITIVENESS
AND REGULATION DIVISION**

At the OECD, Dan leads teams to analyze the implementation of structural policies and their implications for economic growth. Prior to that, he was a founding member of the e61 Institute – a big data data-driven thinktank in Australia – and inaugural Research Director and Head of Policy Engagement. Between 2018 and 2020, Dan was the Chief Adviser on Structural Reform and Head of Macroeconomic Policy Division at the Australian Treasury, where he also served as Co-Chair of the OECD Global Forum on Productivity and Australian delegate to the Working Party No 1 on Macroeconomic and Structural Policy and OECD Economic Policy Committee. Dan first joined the OECD Economics Department in 2009 and has led empirical research at the intersection of potential growth and structural policy. Dan began his career at the Reserve Bank of Australia in 1999 and undertook graduate studies at Harvard University.

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ELIZABETH VAN RENEN

**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE,
INDUSTRY AND
COMPETITION**
CHIEF DIRECTOR: TRADE POLICY

Elizabeth has worked in the field of trade policy since 1996, when she joined the Directorate: International Trade in the then National Department of Agriculture.

In 2009, she was appointed Director: SADC in the Department of Trade and Industry. The position focused on SADC and SADC-EAC-COMESA Tripartite regional economic integration.

In December 2015 she was appointed Chief Director: Trade Policy & Research, in the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

She holds degrees in Agricultural Economics from the Universities of Stellenbosch and Pretoria, as well as a Masters Degree in International and Development Economics from the University of Namur in Belgium.

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ELVIS KORCU AVENYO

**SARCHI INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY
OF JOHANNESBURG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Elvis Korcu Avenyo is an Associate Professor at the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI-Industrial Development) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Elvis obtained a Ph.D. in Economics of Innovation, Policy Studies of Technical Change and Governance from the United Nations University/Maastricht University, The Netherlands.

He researches broadly on development economics and has published in reputable academic journals such as Technovation, Energy Policy, World Development, Applied Energy, Research Policy and South African Journal of Economics. He has worked and co-authored background papers for several international organisations including the World Bank, ILO-Geneva, ACET, UNESCO, UNIDO and UNCTAD.

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EMMANUEL MENSAH

**UTRECHT UNIVERSITY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

Emmanuel is an assistant professor at Utrecht University's School of Economics. His research focuses on Macro-development, specializing in the economics and measurement of structural change. He obtained his Ph.D. from Maastricht University. He has forthcoming papers in Journal of International Economics, (Nature) Scientific Data, World Bank Research Observer. He has published in IMF Economic Review and World Bank Economic Review.

Emmanuel's research has appeared in key media outlets such as The Economist and he has advised and consulted for several international organizations such as the African Development Bank, British International Investments, World Bank, and GIGA on global value chains and structural change.

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GECI KARURI-SEBINA

**UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Geci Karuri-Sebina is an Associate Professor at Wits University's Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, and coordinator of the Africa Civic Tech Innovation Network. She also serves as the ICESCO Chair on Innovation and Futures in Africa. Geci considers herself a scholar-practitioner with interests at the intersections between people, place, technology, and time.

She is widely recognised and published in the fields of development policy, planning and governance; emerging technologies and socio-technical change; and the disciplines of anticipation.

Geci holds undergraduate degrees in Computer Science and Sociology (Iowa); dual Masters degrees in Architecture and in Urban Planning from UCLA; and a PhD in planning and innovation studies from Wits University.

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ISAAC KURASHA

**NATIONAL TREASURY
(SOUTH AFRICA)
DIRECTOR: SECONDARY
SECTORS**

Isaac Kurasha is the Director of the Secondary Sectors within the Microeconomic Policy unit of the Economic Policy and International Cooperation Division in the National Treasury covering industrial and trade policy issues.

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IVAN TUROK

**UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE
STATE
NRF CHAIR**

Ivan Turok is an urban and regional economist with over 30 years' experience. His expertise includes urbanization, economic development, agglomeration dynamics, affordable housing, land markets, spatial planning and urban policy. He is an occasional adviser to the United Nations, OECD, European Commission, World Bank and African Development Bank.

He is the author of over 160 academic publications, journal articles, book chapters and books. He is also a Distinguished Research Fellow at the HSRC, and Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow.

Ivan was recently Chairman of the City Planning Commission for Durban and Editor-in-Chief of Regional Studies.

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JAMES HODGE

**COMPETITION COMMISSION
CHIEF ECONOMIST**

James Hodge is the Chief Economist and an Acting Deputy Commissioner at the South African Competition Commission. James leads the Economic Research Bureau (ERB), which conducts cutting-edge economic research, develops guidelines and investigative toolkits, and provides expert economic and financial analysis in complex competition investigations and litigation before the Competition Tribunal.

His work extends to institutional prioritisation, market insights, market inquiry scoping, proactive complaint initiation, and collaborative research across Africa and globally.

James previously chaired the Online Intermediation Platforms Market Inquiry and Media and Digital Platforms Market Inquiry.

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JOHANN KIRSTEN

**BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC
RESEARCH, STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY
DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR**

Johann Kirsten is Professor and Director of the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) at the University of Stellenbosch. Before this appointment, he was Professor of Agricultural Economics and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria for 20 years, until 31 July 2016.

He completed his BSc Agric and BSc Agric (Hons) degrees in Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch in 1984. He began his career as an agricultural economist in the Department of Agriculture in Pretoria, then pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Pretoria, where he obtained a master's and PhD in Agricultural Economics. He joined the University of Pretoria as a lecturer in 1992. Over a 30-year academic career, he authored or co-authored 140 peer-reviewed papers and supervised 31 PhD and 81 master's students.

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JUSTIN VISAGIE

**UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Justin Visagie is an Associate Professor at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS) at the University of the Witwatersrand. His research focuses on urban and regional economies, industrial policy, and spatial inequality, with an emphasis on using administrative data to inform inclusive and evidence-based development.

Before joining SCIS, he served as Chief Research Specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council and Director of Economic Planning in the Eastern Cape Government.

Justin has published widely on cities, migration, and firm productivity, and collaborates with international and local partners including the International Science Council, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Agence française de développement, World Bank, South Africa's National Treasury and across South African Local Government.

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KHULEKANI MATHE

**BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH
AFRICA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Khulekane Mathe is the Chief Executive Officer of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA). Before joining BUSA, he was the head of financial inclusion at the Banking Association South Africa (BASA). He is also the current chair of the SADC Business Council as of 2026. Khulekani has held various roles in public service, including positions in the Presidency, the National Planning Commission head of Secretariat.

Mathe is a certified director and a member of the Institute of Directors of South Africa (IODSA). He holds a Master of Science degree in development finance and a Master of Education degree focusing on adult education.

Khulekani is an enthusiastic long-distance athlete and has completed the Comrades Marathon ten times.

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LAWRENCE EDWARDS

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
PROFESSOR**

Lawrence Edwards is the Director and Professor of Economics at the research unit Policy Research in International Services and Manufacturing (PRISM) at the University of Cape Town, Senior Fellow at Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA), and Research Associate at SALDRU. Lawrence's research interests lie in the area of international trade covering the effects of trade policies on labour market outcomes, export competitiveness, regional integration, and firm performance.

He has published widely in peer reviewed journals, is author (with Robert Lawrence) of the book "Rising Tide: Is Growth in Emerging Economies Good for the United States" and has consulted widely on trade policy issues for multilateral institutions and governments across Africa.

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LISETTE IJSSEL DE SCHEPPER

**BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC
RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF
STELLENBOSCH
CHIEF ECONOMIST**

Lisette IJssel de Schepper is Chief Economist at the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) at Stellenbosch University, where she leads the business and consumer survey suite and shapes the institute's economic forecasts and narrative, with a deep focus on South African macroeconomic trends and global influences.

She holds a Master's degree in Economics and a postgraduate diploma in Futures Studies (cum laude) from Stellenbosch University.

She regularly provides insight on macroeconomic trends, policy developments and the structural challenges influencing growth, investment and confidence in South Africa's evolving economic landscape.

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MAMOKETE LIJANE

STANDARD BANK
GLOBAL MARKETS STRATEGIST
AND CHAIR OF ERSA BOARD

Mamokete Lijane is currently the Chair at ERSA and a Strategist in Global Markets at Standard Bank CIB, with 22 years' experience as an analyst in financial markets. Prior to Standard Bank, she worked at Absa CIB and Aluwani Capital Partners as a Macro Strategist. Her career spans all areas of non-equity investment research, including macroeconomics, credit and rates on both the buys and the sell sides of the investment business.

Mamokete has a deep interest in the intersection between public policy, economics and financial markets.

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MARIANNE MATTHEE

**GORDON INSTITUTE OF
BUSINESS SCIENCE
(UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA)
PROFESSOR**

Prof. Marianne Matthee is a Professor of Economics at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), University of Pretoria, with over 20 years of experience in economic development, international trade policy, and gender dynamics. She holds a Ph.D. in International Trade from North-West University and teaches Macroeconomics and the MBA elective Trade in Africa.

Her research focuses on the intersection of trade, economic opportunity, and gender, particularly regarding female entrepreneurial exporters and trade-related gender inequality.

An award-winning educator and case writer, she has collaborated with organizations such as the WTO, UNCTAD, and UNU-WIDER to promote inclusive economic growth.

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MOOKETSA RAMASODI

**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE LAND REFORM
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

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NATASHA MARRIAN

**BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC
RESEARCH, STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY**

SENIOR RESEARCHER/POLITICAL ANALYST

Natasha Marrian is a political editor and ^{he} former journalist with a career spanning over two decades, with the majority of her career spent in senior roles at the Business Day and Financial Mail. She has worked across the media spectrum from Mail&Guardian, News24, the SA Press Association and The Citizen to a stint in broadcasting at eNCA.

Natasha began her political reporting career at a key inflection point in the country's history, covering the ANC's Polokwane conference in 2007 which ushered in the Jacob Zuma presidency.

Thereafter, she was at the forefront of covering all major political events culminating in the historic 2024 election and its aftermath.

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NICOLA THERON

FTI CONSULTING
**SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR,
HEAD OF SA ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL CONSULTING**

Prof. Nicola Theron, an expert competition economist affiliated at FTI Consulting, specialises in the application of economics in complex cases, spanning competition policy, commercial litigation and regulation.

Prof. Theron has provided expert economic evidence on many occasions before various regulators, including the Competition Tribunal (in precedent setting cases over the past two decades), the Commercial Court, NERSA, ICASA,

ITAC, the Department of Health, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, and Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications.

In addition to her work in the private sector, she works in academia as an extraordinary professor at Stellenbosch University, Economics Department. Academic duties include lecturing both undergraduate and graduate courses and supervising graduate dissertations.

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PAUL COURT

**CITY OF CAPE TOWN
CHIEF ECONOMIST**

Paul Court is the City of Cape Town's Chief Economist and the Manager of its' Economic Analysis Branch. He holds a Masters' degree in Economics and has 17 years' experience in the fields of public and development economics. For the past 12 years, Paul, together with his dedicated team, has helped elevate the City's understanding of Cape Town's economy, as well as driven the increasing application of economic tools in assessing and evaluating major City projects and strategies.

Paul initiated the development of the City's quarterly economic publication – EPIC – which, for over 10 years, has been the go to document for insights on Cape Town's economy.

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ROY HAVEMANN

**BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC
RESEARCH, STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY
SENIOR ECONOMIST**

Roy is a senior economist at the Bureau for Economic Research heading up the Impumelelo Growth Lab. He spent twenty years in the Treasury system in a variety of roles, including economic modelling and forecasting, financial markets, and head of the Western Cape budget office.

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SAUL MUSKER

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA HEAD OF STRATEGY AND DELIVERY SUPPORT

Saul Musker is Head of Strategy and Delivery Support in the Private Office of the President of South Africa, working on economic reform, climate finance and strategic policy initiatives. He studied at the University of the Witwatersrand and completed a Master of Public Policy at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

He has played a central role in Operation Vulindlela, South Africa's economic reform programme, and helped design the Energy Action Plan and Freight Logistics Roadmap. He was part of the team that developed and implemented the SRD Grant during COVID-19, which has reduced food poverty, and the Presidential Employment Stimulus, creating over two million work opportunities.

He has also contributed to South Africa's just energy transition, including the Just Energy Transition Partnership agreed at COP26 and the Investment Plan supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy.

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STEPHEN GELB

**INDEPENDENT
INDEPENDENT**

Stephen Gelb is an independent development economist currently based in London. He worked in South Africa for thirty years, researching macroeconomics and growth, foreign investment, and political economy and inequality, and advising government. He taught graduate economics, political science and development studies in South Africa, Canada, the US and Switzerland.

He was Lead, Private Sector Development, at ODI Global in London and has extensive research experience across Africa and Asia. He has written widely on South Africa, on foreign direct investment, value chains and multinational corporations in Asia and Africa, on small enterprises in urban areas, and on remittances and diaspora finance.

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THANDO VILAKAZI

**UNIVERSITY OF
JOHANNESBURG
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR:
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

Prof Thando Vilakazi is Associate Professor of Economics and Acting Director in the School of Economics at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), and former Executive Director of the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED) at UJ.

Since 2019, he has served as a Part-Time Member of the Competition Tribunal of South Africa (since 2019) and previously worked as an economist at the Competition Commission of South Africa and Acacia Economics.

Professionally, he has led academic research and provided teaching and consulting advisory services in competition economics and industrial policy across various economic sectors and for competition authorities, sector regulators, government departments, NGOs and private enterprises in South Africa and various African countries.

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TINASHE KAPUYA

**AFRICA NETWORK OF
AGRICULTURAL POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTES (ANAPRI)**

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, LEAD

Tinashe is currently Research Director and Lead of the Modelling Services Center based in Lusaka, Zambia. He leads work on Agricultural Value Chains across sub-Saharan Africa (i.e., Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana, Malawi etc.), with a view of identifying policy reforms and investments that upgrade these value chains to unlock inclusive agricultural transformation.

In South Africa, he has previously worked for private sector (i.e., Agbiz, BUSA, NAACAM etc.) and policy think-tanks (i.e., TIPS, Genesis Analytics, BFAP, etc.)

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VUYO JACK

EMPOWERDEX
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Vuyo Jack founded Empowerdex with Chia-Chao Wu in June 2001. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant at the end of 2000, after completing his articles with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). In March 2003 he was appointed to the BEE Task Team to advise the Minister of Trade and Industry on the BEE legislation.

He was also involved in the drafting of the BEE Codes of Good Practice with the Department of Trade and Industry.

He was a chairman of the South Africa's National Treasury Audit committee from 2010 to 2015. He is a co-founder and Patron of the Growth Catalyst Fund which he established in December 2015 as a social wealth fund. In 2019 Vuyo was appointed to the High Level Panel on Namibian Economy by H. E. Hage Geingob to come up with recommendations to ignite economic growth in Namibia.

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WANDILE SIHLOBO

**AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS
CHAMBER
CHIEF ECONOMIST**

Wandile Sihlobo is South Africa's Presidential Envoy on Agriculture and Land and Chief Economist of Agbiz. He is the author of three books: *The Uncomfortable Truth About South Africa's Agriculture* (2025), *A Country of Two Agricultures* (2023) and *Finding Common Ground* (2020).

He is Senior Lecturer Extraordinary in Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Wits School of Governance.

Appointed to President Cyril Ramaphosa's Presidential Economic Advisory Council in 2019 and reappointed in 2022, he previously served on the Presidential Expert Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

He also sits on Stats SA's Council of Statistics and is a Commissioner at ITAC. He writes for leading publications, comments on policy, and hosts the Agricultural Market Viewpoint podcast. He holds both degrees in agricultural economics from Fort Hare and Stellenbosch.

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WILLEM BOSHOFF

**CENTRE FOR COMPETITION
LAW AND ECONOMICS,
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
CO-DIRECTOR**

Willem Boshoff is Professor of Economics and Co-Director of the Centre for Competition Law and Economics at Stellenbosch University. He holds an MSc from Oxford University and a PhD from Stellenbosch University, and is an ERSA Research Fellow.

Prof Boshoff has published extensively on competition policy, regulation and macroeconomic outcomes in South Africa. He has 20 years experience in competition policy and regulatory matters, advising competition authorities, corporates and government departments.

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ZUKISWA KIMANI

**THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE,
INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION**
**CHIEF DIRECTOR: INDUSTRIAL
POLICY**

Ms Zukiswa Kimani is the Chief Director in Sectors Branch of the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC). She holds a Master's Degree in Development Economics from the Australian National University (ANU).

She has been working in the industrial policy environment for over 19 years, responsible for managing, evaluating, and developing South Africa's industrial policy inclusive of the previous Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and recently Reimagined Industrial Strategy's Masterplans. Her Chief Directorate also oversees research to ensure evidence based policy formulation and Industrial Policy Capacity Building Programmes such as African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE).

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