

The Influence of Black Economic Empowerment on Business-State Relations in South Africa: An Institutional Perspective



**PRESENTATION ON PhD RESEARCH
PROPOSAL**

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BE/BEE/B-BBEE



- **BE** – a generic term used to refer to the various policies and programmes that have black empowerment as either a primary or secondary objective (B-BBEE, BEE, Employment Equity, Land Reform, etc.)
- **BEE** - a term that emerged in the late apartheid era as a rallying cry amongst emergent black entrepreneurs. Used more commonly to refer to the early programmes of black empowerment initiated by business
- **B-BBEE** - the core programme of black empowerment, established by Acts of Parliament in 2003 and 2007

Rationale For The Study



- **BE is not achieving the desired results**
- **Paradoxical stance of business community vv BE**
- **Concerns re corruption and cronyism on the back of BE**
- **Widespread ignorance regarding its origins and evolution**
- **Dearth of empirical research needed to adequately inform policy**

Relevance to Field of Business History



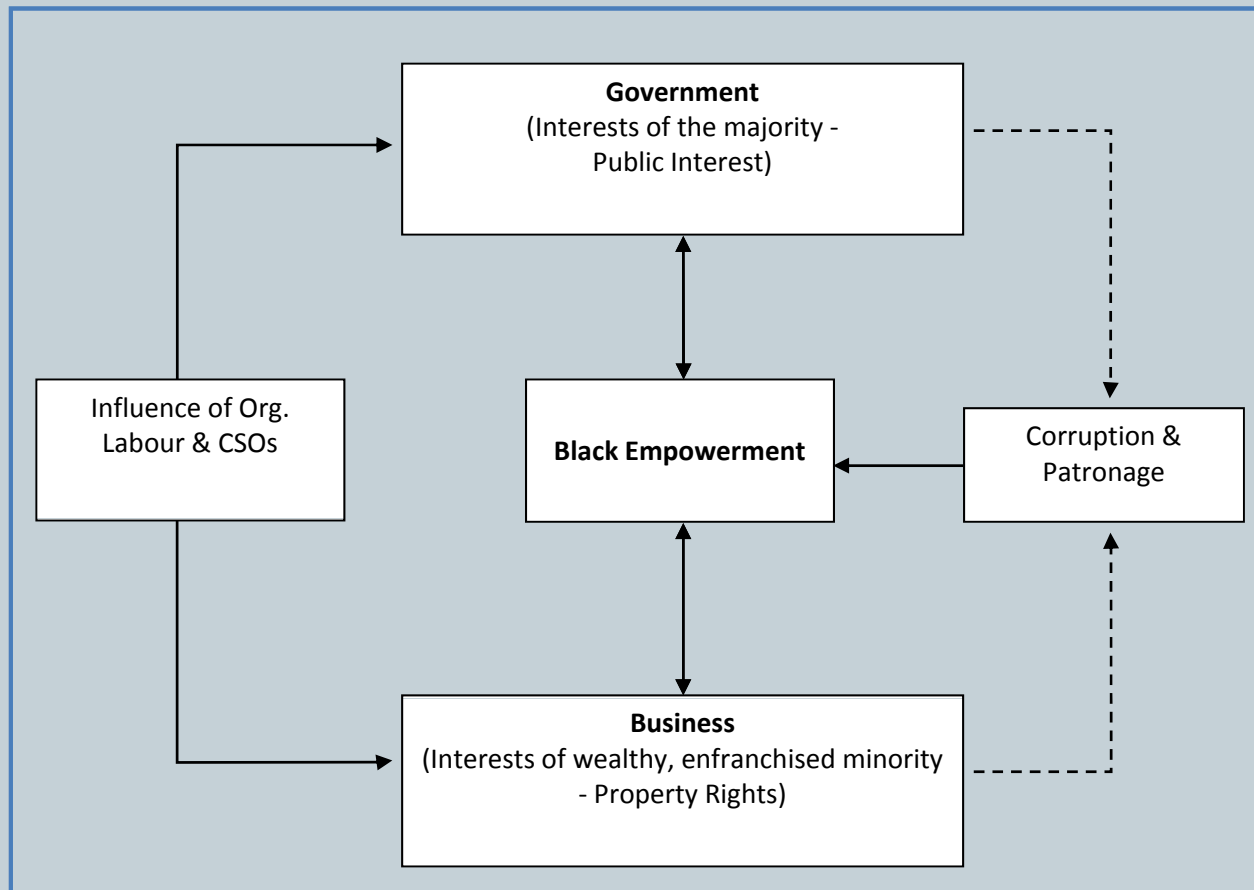
- Rationale for BE lies in the structure of the SA political economy & the unfinished business of the transition process
- The origins of the problem are obscured by sophisticated PR initiatives and partisan media reportage

Research Design



- Reposition BE as an *institution* which:
 - Serves as a proxy for unfinished business of the transformation period
 - Cannot be effectively controlled by either govt. or business
 - Mediates business-state relations & thus has implications for economic development

Research Model



Methodology



- **Informed by initial survey process that revealed:**
 - A cautious and defensive stance within the business community
 - An open, supportive but tactically uninformed stance within government
 - The nature & complexity of BE is not appreciated- viewed simply as a project by all parties
- **Establish theoretical basis for the recognition of BE as an institution in SA Society**
- **Consider the manner in which this institution impacts business-state relations**
- **Engage relevant government and business players in dialogue on this issue**
- **Make recommendations as to the future formulation & implementation of BE policy**