

PROGRAMME

28 June 2019 | Sandton Convention Centre

- 08h00 – 08h50** **Registration and networking**
- 08h55 – 09h00** **Welcome by Andile Khumalo – Master of ceremonies**
- 09h05 – 09h10** **Welcome by Bongani Siqoko – Editor, Sunday Times**
- 09h10 – 09h20** **Opening remarks by Jonas Bogoshi – CEO, BCX**
- 09h25 – 09h45** **Chairman's report by Phuti Mahanyele-Dabengwa – Executive Chairperson, Sigma Capital**
- 09h50 – 10h10** **Keynote address by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng**
- 10h10 – 10h40** **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 10h45 – 11h45** **Youth employment and entrepreneurship – Securing SA's future**
- Out of South Africa's 57,7 million people, more than half (about 29,4 million) are female, and over a third (20,6 million) are young people between 15 to 34 years old; as detailed in a mid-2018 report by Stats SA. When one considers South Africa's record-high unemployment rates; with our youth being the most affected as they continue to struggle with access education, availability of jobs, and insufficient skills training among other pressures, it becomes clear that a significant portion of the country's population is in economic distress.
- For the past four years, issues of quality education, financial literacy, business skills training, mentorship, and financing opportunities have taken centre stage at The Directors Event, as we have sought to find solutions for the future of our youth and for the country's socioeconomic development.
- Let's talk about ways to improve the employment market and to encourage a thriving environment for micro-business in the era of artificial intelligence, digital transformation, startup ecosystems, private-public sector partnerships and more.
- Panelists include:**
- Dr Tashmia Ismail-Saville** – CEO, Youth Employment Service
 - Gcina Mtengwane** – Lecturer, University of the Free State
 - Lebogang Ramodike** – CEO, Big Brands Media Limited
 - Mfundo Nkuhlu** – Chief Operating Officer, Nedbank Limited
 - Liesel Köstlich** – Executive Manager: Entrepreneurship and Cooperative Development, Services SETA
- Moderated by:** **Thabiso Tema**
- 11h50 – 12h50** **Digital transformation – Developing South Africa's economy through inclusive technology innovation**
- The fourth industrial revolution has been knocking on our door for quite some time with countries such as the US, UK and Sweden pioneering the digitisation of work environments; workforce skills; technological equipment (infrastructure); benefitting each country's socioeconomic and cultural environments through such development.

With South Africa currently housing 75% of the continent's largest companies it is imperative that we persistently seek to lead the continent towards economic breakthrough by ensuring that we are on par with global competitors when it comes to the digital optimisation of industries across the board.

Taking into account that innovative digital solutions and the optimum harnessing of data to drive sound business decisions, strong continuity campaigns, inclusive growth and effective communication between customers and organisations are currently and largely the only way to ensure success – right now is definitely as good a time as any to bring businesses and public services together and discuss ways in which South Africa can better position itself in becoming a winner in the digital era's fourth most pivotal evolution.

Panelists include:

- Prof Brian Armstrong** – Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Business Administration, Wits
- Vish Rajpal** – Chief of IT Solutions, BCX
- Nyari Samushonga** – Managing Director, WeThinkCode
- Garth Williams** – Research Specialist: Intelligence, Technology Innovation Agency
- Tembinkosi Bonakele** – Commissioner, Competition Commission South Africa

Moderated by: **Andile Khumalo**

12h55 – 13h55

LUNCH

14h00 – 15h00

SA's politics and the economy – What to expect post-elections 2019

According to Trending Economics, South Africa advanced a seasonally adjusted annualized 1.4 percent on-quarter in the three months to December of 2018, following an upwardly revised 2.6 percent growth in the previous period. Given this - and that the JSE has just experienced its best first quarter in 12 years this 2019 – there is certainly room to believe that SA is well poised for a positive economic turnaround if only some of our structural impediments to economic growth can become unlocked post-elections.

During his SONA address, President Cyril Ramaphosa touched on the World bank's recent findings that ranked South Africa as number 82 of 190 high-performing economies, projecting a 1.3% growth for us in 2019. Sharing his view that our goal as a country should be to open up the economy for all South Africans, and to enter the Top 50 mark in the next three years – the President emphasised that the creation of a healthier environment for young South African entrepreneurs and small enterprise would be critical in our continued development of a robust economy.

Let's discuss South Africa's prospects post-elections - from assuring certainty on key economic policies that will open up markets and encourage foreign investment, to mobilising industries towards the achievement of our country's GDP growth requirements.

Panelists include:

- Prof André Duvenhage** – Political Science Professor, North-West University
- Tshediso Matona** – Secretary of Planning, National Planning Commission
- Dumisani Hlope** – Political Analyst
- Isaah Mhlanga** – Chief Economist, Alexander Forbes Investments
- Cas Coovadia** – Managing Director, Banking Association of South Africa

Moderated by: **Siki Mgabdeli**

15h00

Closing remarks by Andile Khumalo