



## Rethinking Inclusive Industrialisation in Response to COVID-19

Recent social unrest is a stark reminder that as the country looks to developing solutions for reconstruction and recovery, social protection responses will need to be placed at the centre of macro-economic and industrial policies responses.

The announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa this week of measures to alleviate existing hardships is a first step but this issue will form part of discussions by leading researchers, policymakers, civil society organisations as well as private sector representatives during a two day conference next week.

This conference comes at a critical time for key stakeholders to collectively reflect on the socio-economic challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic (and the more recent social unrest), unpack the basic assumptions embedded within approaches to industrial policy within the South African and regional context, and explore opportunities and prospects for economic recovery and reconstruction.

This Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) annual forum is being held in partnership with the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI) at the University of Johannesburg, and in association with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic). It will be held virtually over two mornings on 2 and 3 August 2021.

The TIPS Forum is held annually and has become an important space that the organisation has created since its establishment 25 years ago. It has become a platform for key stakeholders with different views and approaches to present research and engage in dialogue with the aim of influencing policy outcomes.

In providing context to this conference, TIPS senior economist Baba Gqubule explains that “the impact of COVID-19 is likely to result in severe shifts in the global and domestic political economy and likely to deepen pre-existing structural constraints on growth in the medium to long term.” For example, global supply chains and the organisation of work has been disrupted whilst pre-existing inequalities and structural constraints on growth have been exacerbated.

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The programme can be found on the TIPS website ([www.tips.org.za](http://www.tips.org.za)), twitter and Facebook.