

## **Economic inequality – a binding constraint to growth**

Developing and implementing strategies to address the inequality levels in South Africa – being one of the most unequal countries in the world by class, race and gender – is critical if the country is to effectively unblock both social development and economic growth.

This is one of the key themes which will be debated during a virtual seminar on Tuesday addressed by three leading international and local economists who have done extensive work around inequality. This debate comes at a critical time, when the effects of the pandemic have heightened far more starkly than ever before the level of inequality in this country.

This debate forms part of the APORDE seminar series which has been taking place over the last week. This discussion will focus on understanding the factors that reproduce inequality globally and in South Africa, how inequality has persisted more than a quarter of a century since Apartheid when overtly racial laws have been eliminated, how this inequality affects access to economic resources and opportunities as well as the prospects for sustained development. As part of this, economists will present their thinking around the kind of strategic responses which the country needs to implement on a wide enough scale in order to overcoming the deep inequalities.

The economists who will form part of this debate include Dr José Gabriel Palma who is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University. He has done extensive work around inequality and is a member of four “Task Forces” in Joseph Stiglitz’s Initiative for Policy Dialogue. He is joined by TIPS senior economist Dr Neva Makgetla and Dr Basani Baloyi who is Oxfam South Africa’s inequality lead in the Economic Justice Unit. She has done extensive work around gender inequality.

The APORDE series is organised by Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the department of trade industry and competition (dtic), and the South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI) at UJ. This series of engagements form part of the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics, which is a training initiative which was started in 2007 aimed at building capacity in the South (particularly in Africa) around development economics. APORDE’s aim is to broaden perspectives on economic development issues and train policy makers, researchers, academics and civil society representatives. APORDE is a joint initiative between the dtic, the IDC and co-facilitated by TIPS.

For further information and to register for the seminar on Tuesday, please contact Rozale (TIPS) on [rozale@tips.org](mailto:rozale@tips.org) or you can register on:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OaVoXM0aTr6rq99TqOjLjg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OaVoXM0aTr6rq99TqOjLjg)

Alternatively they can join the webinar by using the following

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