

“V”-shaped recovery on track

An informed & motivational keynote address by Dr Roelof Botha, Economic Advisor to the Optimum Investment Group



Just as SA Inc. was slowly starting to recover from the lethargy that was induced by a wicked combination of policy uncertainty, state capture and low confidence which marked the disastrous presidency of Mr Jacob Zuma, along came the coronavirus and turned the whole economy on its head!

As the easing of lockdown regulations gain momentum, economies are rapidly firing up again, although some sectors will take longer to recover. In coming months, all countries will have to grapple with the question of what their economies will look like in a post-pandemic environment.

While lockdown relaxation will ease pressure on economies, even a full reopening will not remotely resemble business as usual. For starters, it will be more subdued, erratic and difficult to predict. Consensus nevertheless exists over two certainties: The pandemic will pass and economic growth will rebound – the crucial questions are when and at what rate?

As a previous winner of several awards, including the *Finmedia Economist of the Year Award* and with more than 40 years of experience, Dr Roelof Botha is exceptionally well-qualified to advise executives and managers on the following key aspects of the imminent post-pandemic environment:

- Clear indications of a swift economic recovery
- An imminent further recovery of the rand exchange rate & the long-term bond yield
- Key drivers of higher domestic growth from the 3rd quarter onwards

His past experience includes: Economic policy advisor at National Treasury; financial editor of a daily newspaper; economics lecturer at several Universities; and chief economist of the SA Federated Chamber of Industries. He teaches Applied Economics at GIBS (part-time), is a columnist for *Netwerk24*, *Beeld*, *Die Burger* and the *Agri Wes-Cape Bulletin*, is Economic Advisor to the Optimum Investment Group and has authored more than 500 research papers and articles. He also authors *The Bright Side*, published monthly by Currencies Direct.

He accurately predicted the recovery of the rand during bouts of unnatural weakness (2002; 2016; and 2020), based on a thorough analysis of indicators confirming the existence of a sufficient level of fundamental economic and financial stability in SA. He also predicted the winner of the 2019 Rugby World Cup!