

INVITATION

PROPOSAL TO FORM A PUBLIC ECONOMICS WORKGROUP OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH SOUTHERN AFRICA

The National Treasury and Economic Research Southern Africa invite you to attend an initiating meeting of an ERSA public economics research group.

With a view to promoting research in public economics and public finance and to encourage engagement between economists working in academic or research institutions and policy advisors or analysts, the ERSA Academic Board has agreed to support a Public Economics research programme. An initiating meeting will bring together researchers and advisors from government, academia and development institutions, to discuss possible focus areas and a work programme for the period ahead. The meeting is timed to overlap with the International Institute of Public Finance conference to be held in Cape Town in August 2009, and the workshop programme will include discussion of experience in other countries in strengthening linkages between researchers and practitioners.

This will be an exploratory workshop to discuss:

- focus areas for subsequent research programmes and the interface between research and policy issues under review
- identification of lead researchers and economists working in public policy and public finance fields
- planning and preparation for workshops and publications

Professor Philip Black, formerly editor of the South African Journal of Economics, has agreed to share some introductory views on microeconomic aspects of public policy in South Africa. Kuben Naidoo, head of the Budget Office in the National Treasury, will speak on the public finance aspects of our development challenges, and Servaas van der Berg will discuss aspects of human development and the public finances.

The workshop programme will also provide an opportunity for open discussion of the state of public economics research in South Africa and Africa more widely, and of areas in which research collaboration might usefully be supported further.

Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2009
Time: 13.00 – 14.00 Finger Lunch
14.00 – 17.00 Workshop
Venue: Disa Conference Room
Cullinan Hotel
1 Cullinan Street
Waterfront
Cape Town
Phone: 021 418-6920

Should you wish to attend, please send an email confirmation to Tania Jacobs (tania.jacobs@uct.ac.za) by 27 July 2009. We look forward to your attendance.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Donaldson
Deputy Director-General: Public Finance
National Treasury