



# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium

*Escaping the Middle – Income Trap:  
A perspective from Namibia*

Register online at [www.bon.com.na](http://www.bon.com.na) before 13 September 2019 / **LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE**

**Date:** Thursday, 19 September 2019  
**Time:** 07:15 - 13:15  
**Venue:** Safari Hotel and Conference Centre

## Biography of Speakers

### Mrs. Florette Nakusera



Mrs. Florette Nakusera is the Director of the Research and Financial Stability Department. She has over 20 years of experience in macroeconomic policy research and statistics, central banking, finance and investments, strategic management, leadership and corporate governance, as well as, environmental economics and policy. Mrs. Nakusera joined the Bank as an Economist, before rising through the ranks as Senior Economist and Deputy Director. She holds a Master's and an Honours degree in Commerce (Economics) from the University of Stellenbosch, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in commerce from the University of Namibia. She also completed the International Executive Development (IEDP) Certificate from the Wits Business School/London Business School and an Executive Development Programme (EDP) from the University of Stellenbosch Business School. Mrs. Nakusera has written and co-authored numerous articles and papers in the field of macroeconomics. She also served as a Chairperson and Director on various Boards and Committees.

### Mr. Mathew Verghis



Mr. Verghis is Practice Manager, Macroeconomics Trade and Investment for Southern Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan for the World Bank. His previous assignment was as Practice Manager in East Asia covering the China, Vietnam and Southeast Asia country units. Earlier he had served as Lead Economist for Southeast Asia, Senior Economist for Turkey and Serbia, and Country Economist for Ethiopia and Eritrea. He has written widely on growth, poverty, fiscal policy and labor markets. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D in Economics from the University of Notre Dame, in the United States.

### Dr. Jesus Felipe



Dr. Jesus Felipe is the Advisor to the Chief Economist, in the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines, where he has worked since 1996. He has travelled extensively throughout Asia and participated in many policy discussions with Governments and provided advice on the design of development plans. He undertook his undergraduate studies in Spain at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He holds M.A. degrees from the International University of Japan and from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Felipe has contributed to the Asian Development Outlook on the Central Asian economies, growth diagnostics exercises, impact evaluation analyses, and Country Partnership Strategies, through his positions as Economist, Senior Economist and Principal economist in the Economics and Research Department. He also led the design of long-term development plans for energy, transport, and urban services for Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; and industrialisation and structural change programs in Pakistan and Central Asia.

### Mr. Heinrich Mihe Gaomab II



Mr. Heinrich Mihe Gaomab II is the former African Development Bank Group Executive Director representing the Southern Africa Group II Constituency which comprises: Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe since 1 July 2016. He also served as the Alternate Executive Director from July 2013-June 2016. He served as the Chairperson of the Operations and Development Committee of the Board of Directors during 2017-2018. He is the Founding Chief Executive Officer of the Namibian Competition Commission during 2009-2016 and served as the Vice-President of the Group of Experts on Competition Policy and Law at UNCTAD during 2014-2015. Mr. Gaomab II worked at SACU on Common Policy Development and Regional Integration 2006-2009. Mr. Gaomab II obtained a Master's degree in Quantitative Development Economics from University of Warwick, United Kingdom and a Senior Diploma in Investment Analysis & Portfolio Management from University of South Africa in 2003. Mr. Gaomab II has 30 years of published research record and proven experience and exercises ethical business leadership in areas of economics, development finance, corporate governance, consumer protection, trade, and empowerment.

## Programme

### Director of Ceremonies: Mr. Kazembire Zemburuka

- 07:15 – 08:15 Registration
- 08:15 – 08:30 Welcoming Address  
Mr. lipumbu Shiimi, Governor,  
Bank of Namibia
- 08:30 – 09:00 Keynote Address and official opening:  
R.H. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila,  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
- 09:00 – 09:30 Is Namibia in a middle – income trap?  
Ms Florette Nakusera, Director: Research &  
Financial Stability Department
- 09:30 – 10:00 Escaping the Middle – income trap:  
International Experiences  
Dr. Mathew A. Verghis: Practice Manager -  
Macro Economics & Fiscal Management:  
World Bank
- 10:00 - 10:30 TEA BREAK
- 10:30 – 11:00 Notes on the middle - income trap and how  
Namibia could avoid it  
Dr. Jesus Felipe: Advisor - Economic  
Research and Regional Cooperation  
Department: Asian Development Bank  
(ADB)
- 11:00 - 11:30 Improving Business Climates and Escaping  
the middle – income trap: Strategies and  
Policy options for Namibia  
Mr. Mihe Gaomab II, former Executive  
Director: African Development Group
- 11:30 – 13:00 Panel Discussion and the Way Forward  
Speakers & Discussants:  
Dr. Omu Kakujaha-Matundu, University  
of Namibia; Adv. Inge Zaamwani-Kamwi,  
Presidential Advisor on Constitutional Affairs  
and Private Sector Interface.
- 13:00 -13:15 Vote of Thanks  
Mr. Ebson Uanguta, Deputy Governor,  
Bank of Namibia
- 13:15-14:00 Luncheon

**PROMOTING POLICY DIALOGUE SUPPORTIVE  
OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN  
NAMIBIA**

