

ANNOUNCEMENT | 26 NOVEMBER 2025

Appointment of new BER political analyst

The Bureau for Economic Research (BER) at Stellenbosch University is delighted to announce that highly respected political journalist Mrs Natasha Marrian has been appointed as its first ever in-house political analyst. She will assume her duties on 1 January 2026.

Marrian is currently an editor-at-large at Avusa Holdings, writing across the Financial Mail, Business Day and the Sunday Times. She was previously the political editor of News24, the Mail&Guardian and the Business Day, as well as the acting editor of the Financial Mail.

Her addition to our permanent staff will allow the bureau to add insightful political analysis to our suite of economic products and commentary at a time when the country is heading into a challenging political cycle.

Based in Gauteng, Marrian will be keeping an eye on the race for the mayor of Johannesburg as well as on the local government elections, the ANC policy conference, and the pivotal 2027 ANC general election where Cyril Ramaphosa's successor will be elected – an event which will have far-reaching implications for the economy.

In addition to informing the BER's economic forecasts and supporting the public interest work of the BER's Impumelelo Growth Lab (headed by Roy Havemann), Marrian's appointment will also give clients greater access to relevant political and policy analysis to complement the BER's extensive macroeconomic offering.

BER Director, Prof Johann Kirsten says that he is "extremely happy about the appointment and looks forward to working with Natasha in this new stage in the BER's journey".

ENQUIRIES

Celeste Booysen, Communications Officer

Tel: +27 (21) 808 9755

Email: cbooyesen@sun.ac.za

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