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UCT academics appointed to the Presidential Economic Advisory Council

Two University of Cape Town (UCT) academics are looking forward to contributing to South Africa's economic growth following their appointment to the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC).

Professor Alan Hirsch and Professor Haroon Bhorat were appointed to the PEAC with effect from 1 October 2019. The council will aim to generate new ideas for economic growth, job creation and addressing poverty. The establishment of the PEAC was announced during President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address of February 2018.

Professor Hirsch, founding director of UCT's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance says that he is "very honoured to be appointed by President Ramaphosa to this important role." He hopes that UCT and the Mandela School will "contribute to the development of policies and support the implementation of good economic policies through research and leadership training capabilities."

Professor Hirsch is educated in economics and history at UCT, Wits and Columbia universities. He taught at UCT, and then joined the South African Department of Trade and Industry in 1995. From 2002 to 2012 he managed economic policy in the South African Presidency, represented the Presidency in the G20, and was co-chair of the G20 Development Working Group. He serves on several boards including the European Centre for Development Policy Management. He was visiting scholar at the Harvard Business School, a regular visiting professor at Maastricht University, directed the International Growth Centre's research in Zambia, and was a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development secretary-general's Inclusive Growth Advisory Panel.

Professor Bhorat is professor of economics in the School of Economics and director of the Development Policy Research. His research interests cover labour economics, poverty and income distribution. He has co-authored and co-edited a number of books on labour market and poverty issues in Africa, including co-editing The Oxford Companion to the Economics of South Africa. Professor Bhorat has published more than 150 academic journal articles, book chapters and working papers. He was recently appointed to the editorial advisory board of the World Bank Economic Review. Professor Bhorat has a PhD in Economics through Stellenbosch University. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology and was a Cornell University research fellow. He holds the highly prestigious National Research Chair under the theme of Economic Growth, Poverty and Inequality: Exploring the Interactions for South Africa.

On the establishment of this Council, President Ramaphosa said: "It will draw on the expertise and capabilities that reside in labour, business, civil society and academia."

The PEAC will be expected to engage and provide advice on:

- The pillars of a macro-economic strategy that should frame economic and industrial policy decisions that government should pursue in the medium to long term, consistent with the electoral mandate of the current administration.
- Creative ways of building trust between government and social partners in a manner that responds to South Africa's triple challenges of poverty, unemployment an inequality.
- Global developments that impact on South Africa's growth prospects, and critical steps required to achieve policy coherence and to build confidence across society, social partners and investors.

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