

Director, Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting and Research at African Development Bank

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Job Description

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The AfDB's mission reflects the aspirations of the entire African continent. It is firmly rooted in a deep understanding and experience of Africa. The Bank aims to be at the center of Africa's transformation and to improve the quality of Africa's growth, promote inclusive growth and spur the transition to green growth.

THE POSITION:

The African Development Bank Group is currently going through an exciting period of strategic and structural fine-tuning, moving towards a more collaborative, cross-cutting way of working. As part of that change, the ECVP Complex is leading on the repositioning of the Bank Group as an innovative and dynamic organisation that works effectively as one. An important element of this will be to strengthen its public profile and policy impact, embedding a critical understanding of economics across all aspects of the Bank Group's work, including in its research projects and policy advocacy, as well as its external engagement with decision-makers, opinion formers and other stakeholders.

The Director of the Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting and Research Department will contribute substantially to the Bank Group's conceptualisation, design, implementation and quality assurance of all the Bank's knowledge work. The successful candidate will be part of the senior leadership in the Complex and across the Bank, play a key role in developing the public profile of the institution's work and lead outreach to a broad range of

external stakeholders while also managing a dynamic team of professionals.

The African Development Bank is looking for a person with a strong economics background, who is a clear, creative thinker with developed influencing skills, who can build relationships with and influence key players across academia, private and public sectors and civil society.

Under the overall direction of the Vice President, the overall purpose of the role is:

To help provide strategic vision, delivery and leadership on economic policy and research at the Bank Group, and to inform and shape its work with sound analysis and direction.

To enhance and develop the Bank Group's external knowledge profile, its influence and impact. This will be achieved through credible and persuasive communication of the institution's strategic ambition to key audiences: RMCs, policymakers, opinion-formers, the media, as well as other stakeholders.

To build up, lead, manage, mentor and coach a first-rate group of research economists, statisticians and policy analysts to strengthen the capacity of the Bank on country and regional policy dialogue.

KEY FUNCTIONS:

Under the supervision and guidance of the Chief Economist/ Vice President for Economics Research, Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Management, the Director will perform the following duties:

Work program validation and execution

Review and validate the objectives and work program of the Department, ensuring alignment to the strategic priorities of the department, the Complex and the Bank.

Monitor their execution and provide guidance as needed to the teams.

Review and validate the budget, and its effective implementation.

Report on the work program execution and propose alternative and corrective measures as needed.

Actively contribute to the designing and monitoring of the corporate key performance indicators.

Technical oversight on the department's activities

Provide the Bank Group and member countries with economic intelligence on macroeconomic developments, projections of the most widely used economic and financial variables relating to Africa's economy and Bank Group operations.

Analyze regional member countries' economies with emphasis on the HI-5s, using cutting-edge techniques and assessing regional and continental development strategies with particular emphasis on debt-sustainability analysis and impact of major exogenous shocks on macroeconomic aggregates and living standards.

Conduct or participate in special studies aimed at improving the strategies and programming of Bank Group operations.

Develop appropriate analytical tools for the purpose of streamlining Bank Economic and Sector Work on critical areas, such as macroeconomic analysis and impact evaluation of development projects.

Coordinate the preparation of the Bank Group's flagship reports.

Supervise the processing of the Bank's major publications, including the African Development Report, the African Development Review, and the annual statistical publication.

Prepare and process major statements, speeches and briefs for the President and Vice-Presidents, for the high-level meetings, conferences and visits to the regional member countries.

People Management

Ensure the department has the appropriate skills-mix at any time for effective delivery of the objectives defined in the work program.

Review and validate the staffing needs and build with the Human Resources department the required recruitment plans.

Assess work performance, appraise staff potential and determine training needs.

Put in place, with the assistance of the Human Resources department, talent management mechanisms, to build a talent pool for the department for business continuity.

Organize effective delegation of responsibilities by empowering staff at all levels.

Relations with stakeholders

Ensure effective collaboration with the other departments of the Complex.

Work closely with operational departments to ensure relevance of knowledge and research work to the Bank's operations and projects.

Promote and maintain relations with institutions dealing with economic research and development policies, especially as relating to Africa.

Serves as Acting Chief Economist/ Vice President for Economics Research, Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Management Complex, when required.

Performs other duties assigned by the Chief Economist/Vice President.

COMPETENCIES (skills, experience and knowledge)

Hold at least a Ph.D. degree from a reputable University in Economics or other relevant discipline.

At least 10-15 years of relevant experience, of which at least 5 years should have been exercised at senior management level. (Prior work in multilateral, bilateral or regional development agencies a plus).

An excellent understanding of contemporary debates in economic policy, broadly understood, both in the Africa and elsewhere, informed by both orthodox and heterodox economic theory (a plus for one with academic links with other social sciences researchers on development issues);

Strong capacity in macroeconomic and microeconomic research with a traceable record of publications in peer reviewed reputable journals in the same field or relevant subject.

A proven track record of conceptualizing, implementing and managing policy-oriented macro-and/or micro-economics research, including ensuring quality of high-level research output and knowledge leverage, dissemination and outreach.

Strong familiarity with the role of other development finance institutions in facilitating economic reform knowledge and addressing poverty reduction in developing countries.

Strong technical and quantitative skills, and in particular, the use of statistical and

econometric methods in the analysis of economic development issues and in relation.

Strong planning and organizational skills, including a proven ability to think strategically, seeing the big picture without sacrificing the details, negotiation skills and team building skills, as well as a credible ability to influence and present ideas.

Capacity to connect, understand and influence stakeholders at all levels.

Ability to handle the high-level demands of a complex organization, including the ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines.

Impeccable oral and written communication skills in French or English, with a good working knowledge of the other language.

Competence in the use of standard Office Suite applications (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint); knowledge of SAP is highly desirable.

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