

## CONCEPT NOTE:

### Defence Economics and the art of a South African Defence Budget

Webinar 22 April 2022 11:00-13:00 (GMT+2)



Register [here](#)

[SIGLA](#) of Stellenbosch University is partnering with the Centre for Military Studies (Stellenbosch University) to present a morning webinar on Defence Economics and Defence Budgets. The webinar aims to bring Defence Economics and the trade-offs that face decision-makers into context by way of a contribution from, among others, Prof Andre Roux of the Stellenbosch University Business School and former Director of the Institute for Futures Research. Prof Roux is one of a very small pool of Defence Economists in South Africa while the discussants are Prof Ronney Ncwadi from NMU and Prof Jo-Ansi van Wyk from UNISA.

As is evident from the recently published 2022/23 Defence Budget, South African defence decision-makers continue to face a persistent dilemma of shrinking budget allocations to maintain quality defence service delivery. The reality of reduced funding manifests as a 'mothballed military' alongside severely strained support for regional deployments and difficult national trade-offs accentuated by possible personnel retrenchments amidst a national unemployment crisis. The defence status quo in South Africa now translates into a defence dilemma of risking defeat should a military confrontation arise. The latter is not an immediate threat, but the SANDF is even strained in fulfilling secondary roles as called for by national leadership by having to draw upon its presumed collateral utility. In effect, its collateral utility is also the victim of the regression in overall military capability and readiness as it is a dependent, not an independent military utility.

Bridging the funding-capabilities trap is ultimately a political decision, but also impact on defence-budget debates at other levels, including within the Department of Defence, National Treasury and Parliament's oversight work. The online webinar is a conduit to add some ideas to the public domain from academia that might be of benefit to defence decision-makers to use in their oversight and advisory roles during 2022.

#### Enquiries

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