



DR ROELOF BOTHA – concise biographical notes

Roelof Botha received his early schooling in Stockholm (Sweden), Cologne (Germany), The Hague (The Netherlands), Christiana (North West), Cape Town and Pretoria.

His late father (also Roelof) was the 2nd longest-serving Minister of Foreign Affairs in the world & also served in the late Nelson Mandela's first democratic cabinet. His eldest son (another Roelof) is a partner at Sequoia Venture Capital in Silicon Valley, where he co-founded *PayPal* & engineered the *YouTube/Google* acquisition.

Roelof obtained Honours and Master's degrees in economics (*cum laude*) at the University of Pretoria, whilst the Doctorate was completed at the University of Johannesburg. He has followed a diversified career in management accounting; financial journalism; lecturing; consulting; and economic research.

He is a regular commentator & columnist on topical macroeconomic issues (in the national media) and has authored more than 500 articles, research papers & books. In 2005, he received the prestigious *Finmedia Economist of the Year* award, based on the accuracy of forecasts of key economic indicators.

Roelof has represented the Southern African activities of GOPA Consultants (Germany) for the past 25 years and has been Joint Managing Director of GOPA Group SA (Pty) Ltd since its inception in 2000). He was an economic advisor (part-time) to PricewaterhouseCoopers for 28 years and is currently the economic advisor (part-time) to the Optimum Investment Group.

He also teaches economics at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), University of Pretoria. Over the past three decades, more than 400 companies & employer organisations have utilised his services in providing forecasts of economic indicators, mostly for purposes of strategic planning.

He is a keen sportsman and has participated in competitive soccer (also as a coach), cricket and sport parachuting & is a member of the Gideons.

As a seasoned veteran of the public speaking circuit in Southern Africa, Dr Botha has managed to captivate audiences with his unique style of blending the serious matters of economics and politics with the lighter side of life. His presentations are regarded as broadly motivational, in terms of highlighting research that confirms numerous positive structural changes in SSA, particularly since the welcome changes to the executive leadership in South Africa.