

## BIO OF MR OLIVIER GEORGE SERRÃO



Olivier George Serrão is currently the Executive responsible for Strategy at Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA), where he develops strategies and works with senior business leaders, Organised Business structures, government, and a range of stakeholders including think tanks, NGOs and international partners in advancing a conducive environment for South Africa's socio-economic development. Olivier has worked in Organised Business structures for several years, previously occupying the role of Executive Director: Economic Policy at Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), South Africa's apex representative of Organised Business at domestic and international level.

Passionate about South Africa's potential on the back of social partnering, Olivier has also worked in National Government (the former Economic Development Department [EDD], where he served as Director and Acting Chief Director of Social Partnering and National Social Dialogue), participating in a number of high-level initiatives including social dialogue process that culminated in the introduction of a National Minimum Wage in South Africa.

Olivier also has prior experience in managing social dialogue and negotiation processes having worked at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) early in his career, as well as programme and project management experience at the Johannesburg office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Although fundamentally a generalist, Olivier has published articles on specific topics including public finance and fiscal policy (in the media), South African politics and foreign policy (in accredited academic journals) and represented the Organised Business position on a wide range of issues such as trade, fiscal and competition policy, and company law, in various print and radio interviews over the years.

From an academic perspective, Olivier holds a B.A., B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. from Rhodes University, where he was a recipient of several scholarships and prizes for academic achievement, including most proudly the inaugural Terence Beard Award for top student in politics, as well as a DAAD Scholarship and a number of scholarships from Rhodes University itself.

Olivier's greatest source of pride and joy is his family: he is married with two young sons. Although his main focus and investment of time invariably resides in his family and BLSA responsibilities, he maintains an interest in politics, economics, philosophy, language and literature. His hobbies include chess, a sport in which he previously competed at provincial level, history (particularly ancient history), hiking, martial arts, and reading.