



# From SONA to the year ahead, an equity perspective

Monday, 15 February 2021  
14h00(CAT)

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# **Peter Attard Montalto**

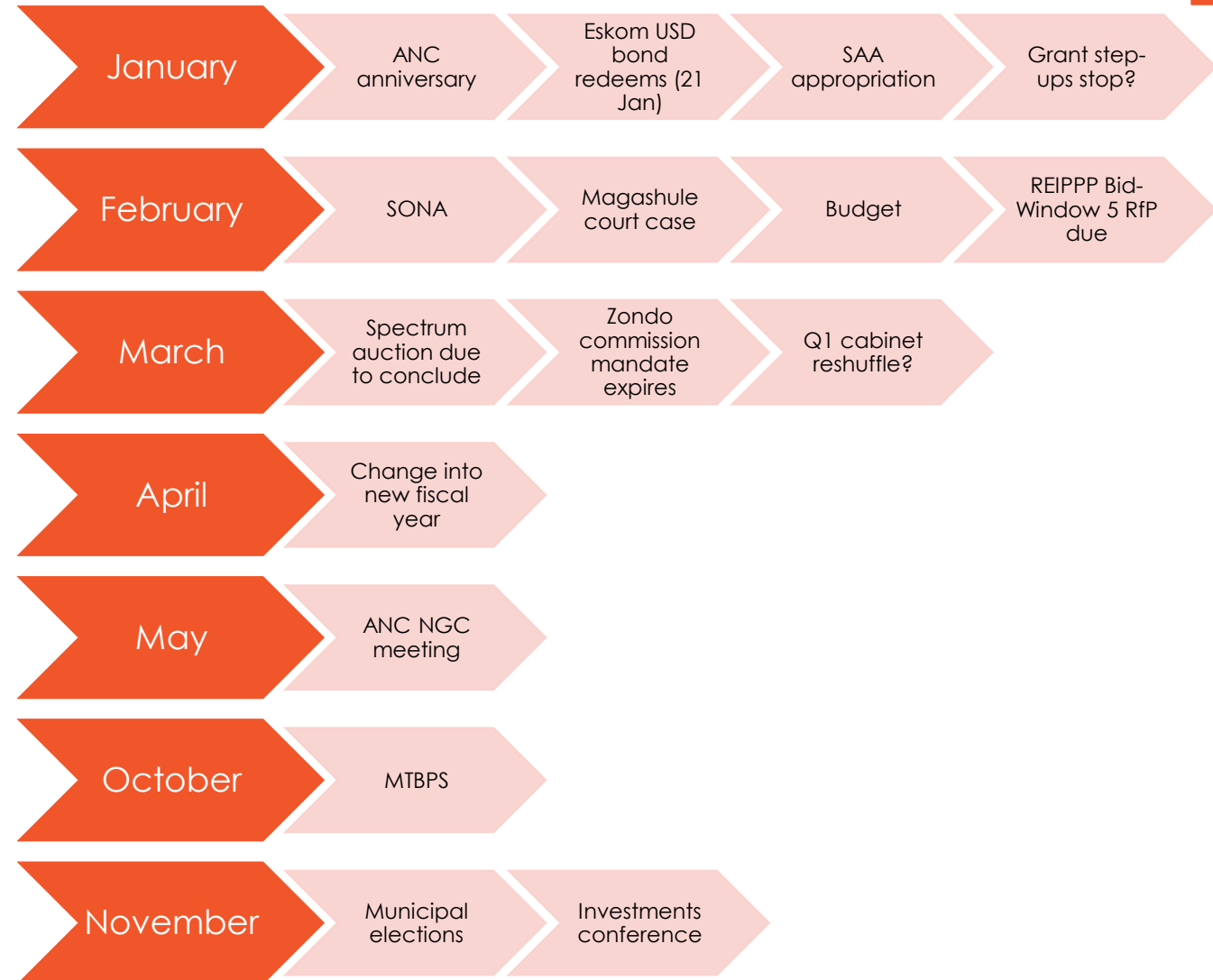
Head of Capital Markets Research



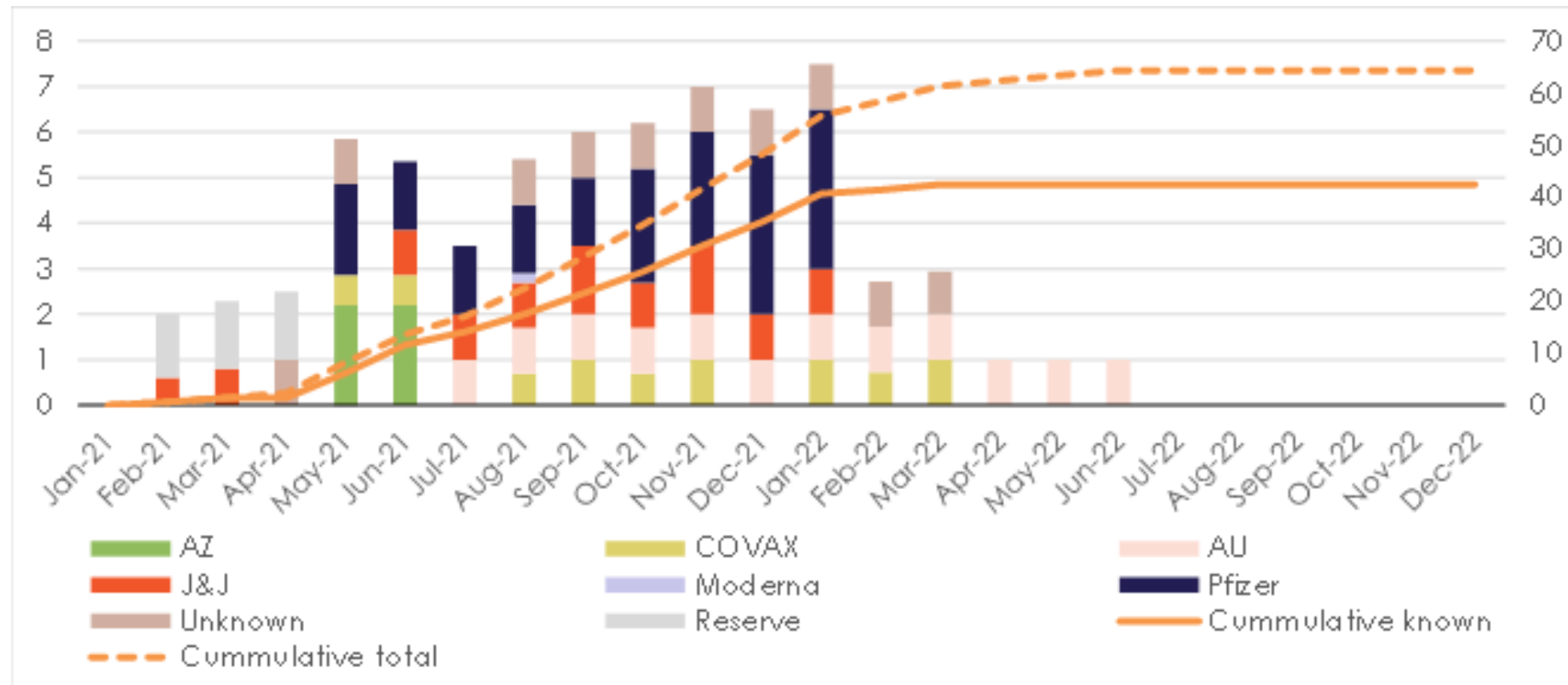
# Outlook for 2021

- Growth of 3.2% after -7.3% last year. Growth of 2.7% next year.
- Will not be to second half of 2023 that return to 2019 output. Per capita income never recovers
- Long term potential growth at 1.7% - upside risks from reforms coming through, downside risks if they don't
- Inflation broadly under control – around centre of target
- Slow pace of rate hikes only from SARB in 2022 onwards
- **Third wave of covid from May**
- Expect electricity problems to persist
- Big step up in **inequality**
- Political noise!

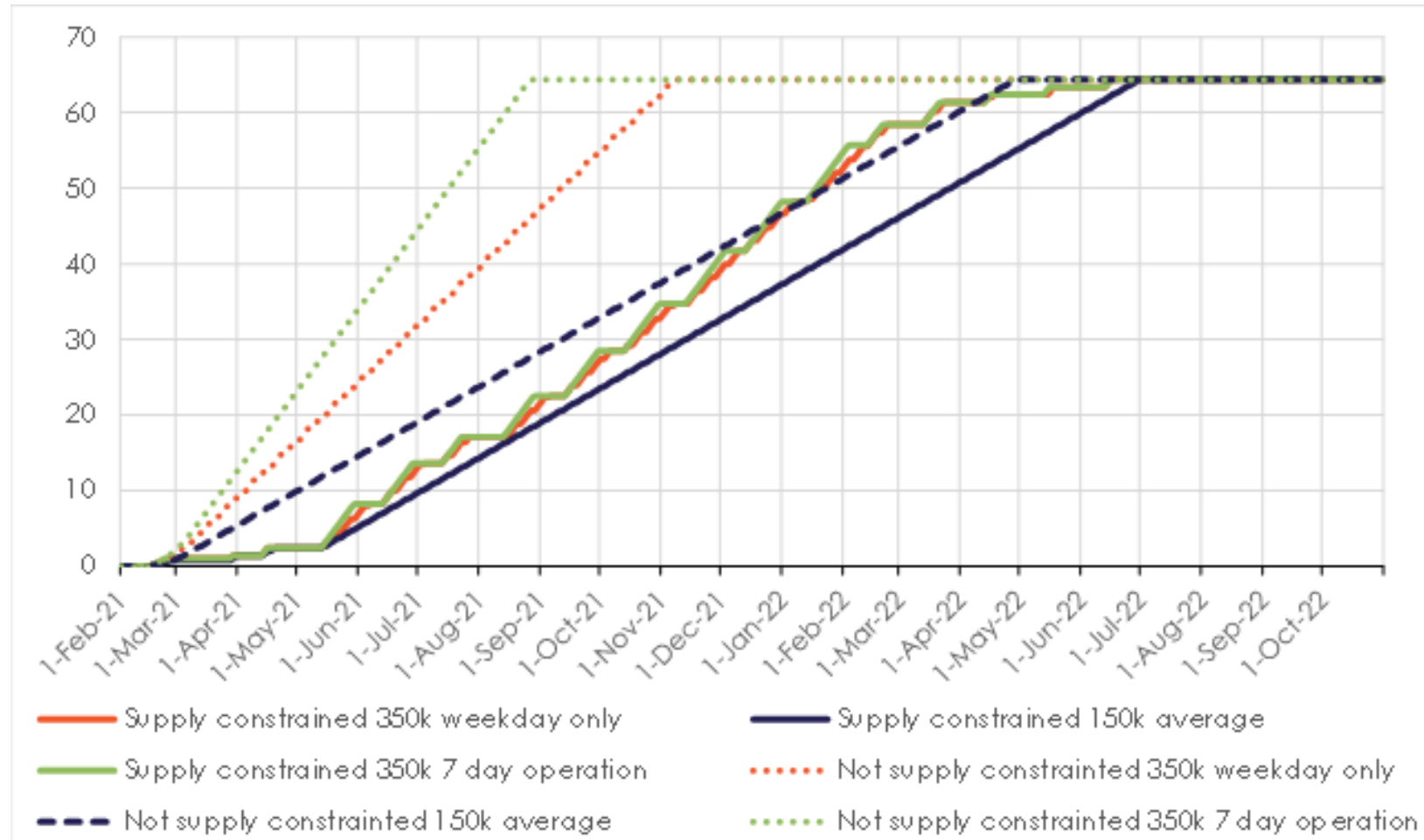
# Events ahead



# Outlook for 2021



# Outlook for 2021



# Outlook for 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Long term
<b>GDP (% yoy)</b>	0.8	0.1	-7.3	3.2	2.7	1.5	1.7
<b>CPI (HL, % yoy)</b>	4.6	4.1	3.3	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.5
<b>CPI (Core, % yoy)</b>	4.3	4.1	3.3	3.2	4.3	4.4	4.4
<b>Budget (% GDP*)</b>	-4.0	-6.4	-15.9	-11.9	-10.4	-9.0	-7.5
<b>Primary (% GDP*)</b>	-0.3	-2.7	-10.2	-6.1	-4.4	-2.8	-1.1
<b>Gov Debt (% GDP)</b>	56.6	63.5	82.3	87.0	92.0	95.8	>100
<b>CA (% GDP)</b>	-3.6	-3.0	2.0	0.5	-0.8	-1.4	-2.0
<b>Repo (%)</b>	6.75	6.50	3.50	4.00	4.75	5.75	6.00
<b>Unemployment</b>	27.1	28.7	32.2	34.0	34.5	34.5	35.0



# SONA review

- Operation Vulindlela making some progress on reforms but at a low level
  - Water
  - Visas
- Wider infrastructure rollout ongoing but failing to gain pace to lift potential growth
  - PPP/PFMA/MFMA problems that won't be addressed
  - Bankability and capacity problems
  - Lanseria important proof of concept to watch
  - Renewables will push forwards (but solving what problem)
  - Liberalisation of self-generation in doubt? Would be radical change
- Issue of what commitments government makes in COP26 (November) on **net zero carbon emissions**
  - Crucial for Eskom, Just Energy Transition



# Budget Preview

- Treasury trying to keep everything broadly 'unchanged' for fear of opening pandora's box.
- No major tax hikes – ZAR5bn, small changes to inheritance tax, bracket creep, no wealth tax?
- On expenditure side – Land Bank, Vaccines (ZAR10bn?), marginal slowing of other cuts
- Wage bill using unrealistic assumptions still – ie flat wages into new year
- Debt still expected to climb towards 100% in 5years
- NT risk aversion – saving most of the cash from better revenues this year.
- **Bond markets crowd out investments?**

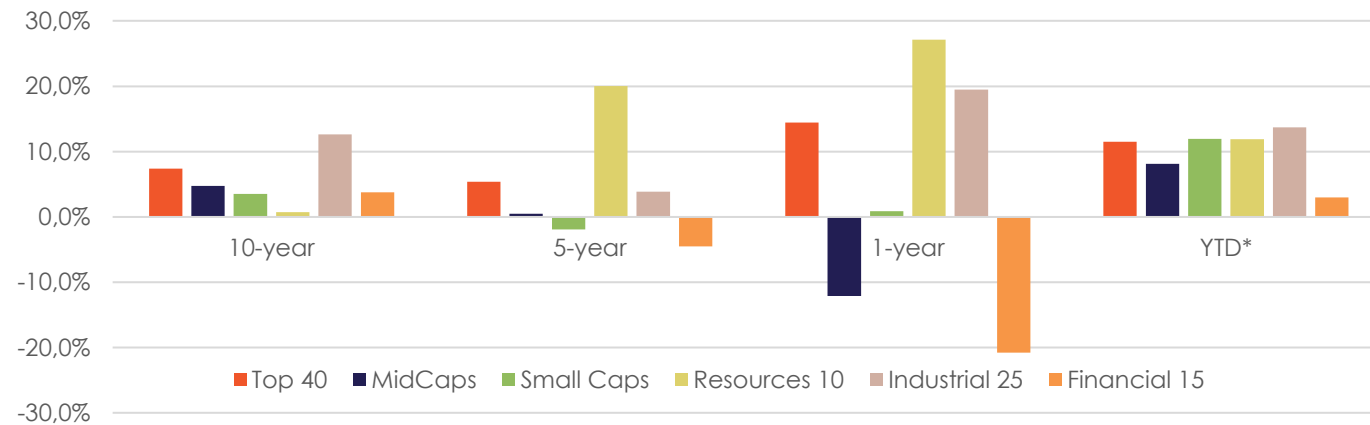
# Phibion Makuwerere, CFA

Senior Financial Analyst

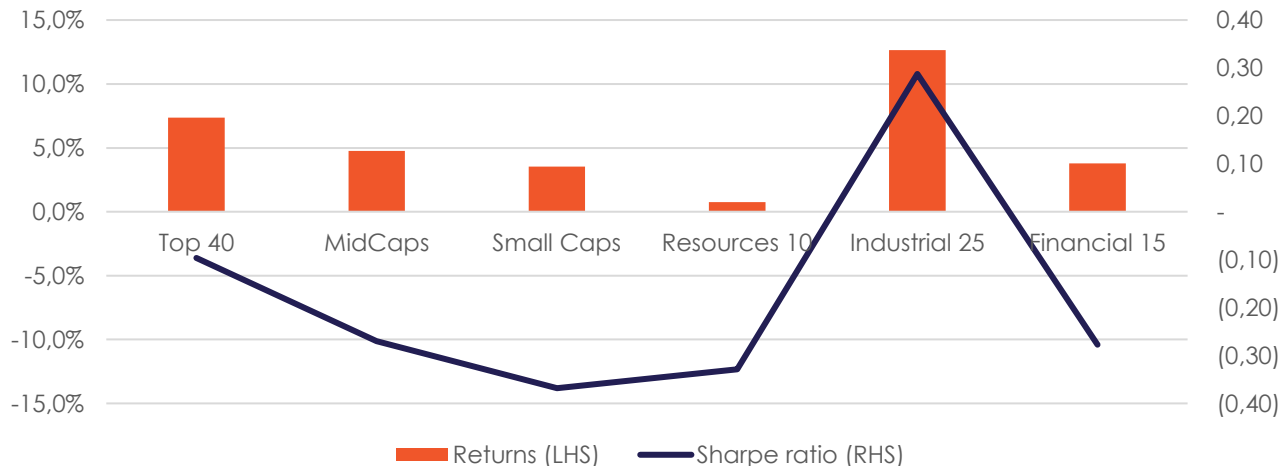


# Overview: Local equities

Performance to end-January  
(annualised for periods greater than one year)

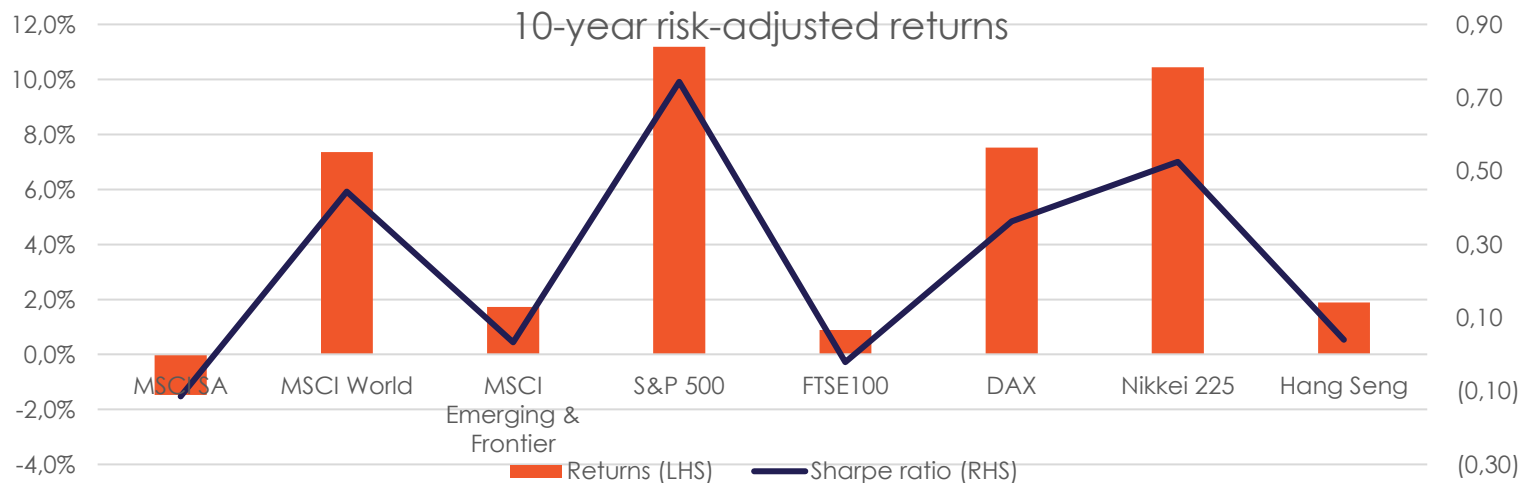
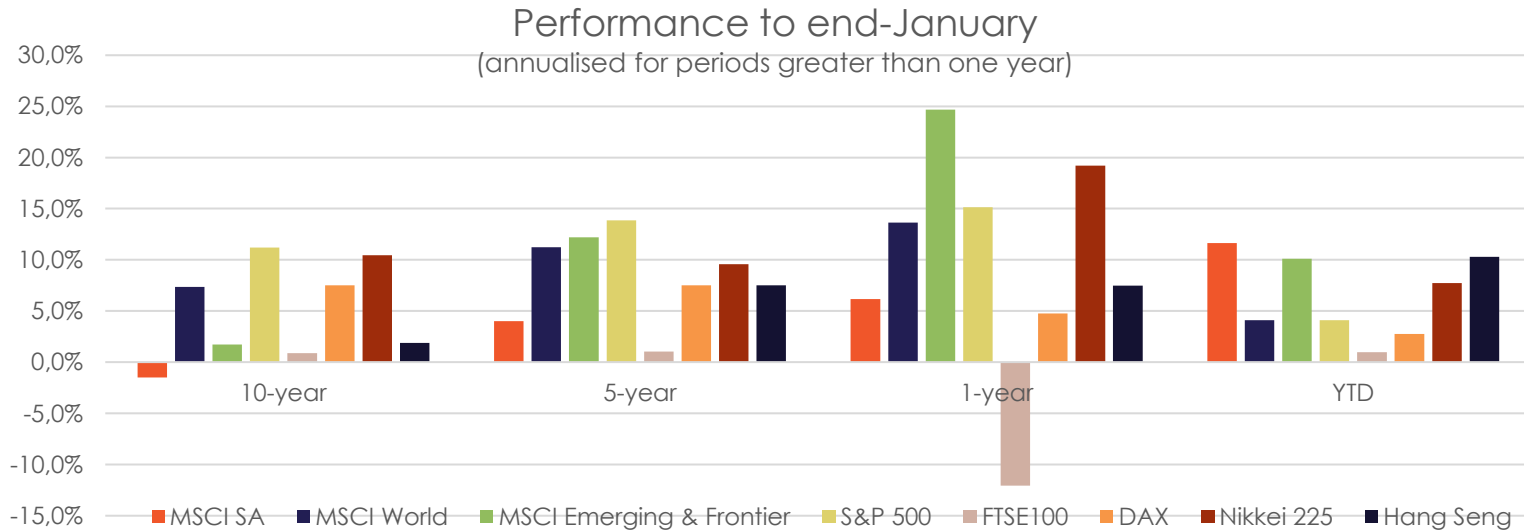


10-year risk-adjusted returns



- The top 40 has done considerably better than SA-focused stocks (mid and small caps)
- While resources have resurrected in the last five years, they are still disappointing over a ten period
- Risk-adjusted returns are more telling. Industrials led by Naspers/Prosus have outperformed
- BOTTOM LINE: To invest in SA Inc stocks (Mid and small caps) you will need to search carefully for potential individual performers

# Overview: local vs offshore



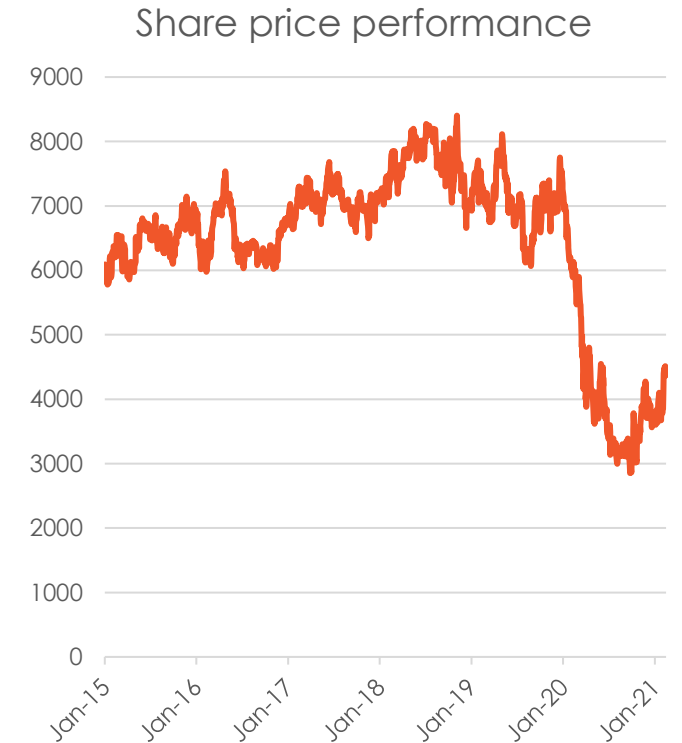
- In real (dollar) terms we have performed poorly in a global context in the last 10 years, albeit great start to 2012
- The poor performance was more pronounced in President Zuma's second term in office characterised by a fast depreciating rand
- Also, severe capital flight in the last few years
- Negative risk-adjusted returns graph encapsulate the meaning of the "lost decade"
- For the record, there is a strong case for offshore investing
- Again the main takeaway is if you want to invest in SA you need to look carefully

# Looking ahead

- Resource: A robust recovery but don't see any meaningful investments until we have a better enabling policy environment. We see the sector doing well on profits but generally returned as dividends to investors, as price rather than volumes drive the outlook.
- Financial: We see low SARB rates for a long time but a sharp step up in unemployment meaning the industry will be driven much more by innovation and competition for limited market.
- Industrial: It will be a key focus for DTIC and local content which may stymie it in the long run, but a key source of innovation is required for things like green hydrogen and green synthetic fuels.
- High-end manufacturing can benefit from AfCFTA though this will be a slow burn growth story
- Overall, the bar for local equities has been set so low given the low economic growth expectations – SA Inc stock showing value attributes but at the risk of “value trap”
- Upside risk of rerating on performance that is not worse than feared
- A major tailwind and investment theme, also espoused in SONA: renewable energy and just energy transition augmented by a global ESG focus; spectrum allocation
- Also, global “risk on” sentiment and portfolio flows – already witnessed this year. But can also work in reverse
- Bearish on consumer demand – widening inequality caused by the lockdowns last year, combined with a low jobs intensity recovery

# Stock pick: Reunert (RLO)

- SECTOR: Electrical Components & Equipment sector
- TAILWINDS
  - REIPPP & localisation
  - renewable and distributed generation play
  - As a supplier to the telecoms sector it also stands to benefit from the imminent spectrum allocation and subsequent 5G rollout by the sector
- HEADWINDS: Further delays of Bidding Window 5 due to disagreements on localisation
- It is the only one among its peers with decent R&D spend
- Liquid scrip, commands 88% of market capitalisation and 62% of sales in the sector
- 70% of group sales are in the energy and telecoms value chains
- Low debt levels, better RoE and RoCE relative to peers



# Stock pick: Netcare (NTC)

- SECTOR: Health care
- TAILWINDS:
  - Defensive: demand for health care services is fairly stable throughout market cycles
  - The resumption of elective surgery is imminent on the back of vaccines
  - A pure SA play, least favoured and more discounted than its peers
- HEADWINDS: pricing pressure from health care funders
- Strongest balance sheet among its peers
- Focusing on initiatives that increase return on investment since exiting the UK
- On average, better RoE and RoCE relative to peers in the last three years

Share price performance





# Lerato Matibidi, CA (SA)

Equity Research Analyst



# Sector themes: Tertiary sectors

## **Telecommunications**

- Part of the infrastructure plan is the allocation of the much awaited spectrum allocation
- Remedy for high data costs
- Gateway for the introduction of 5G

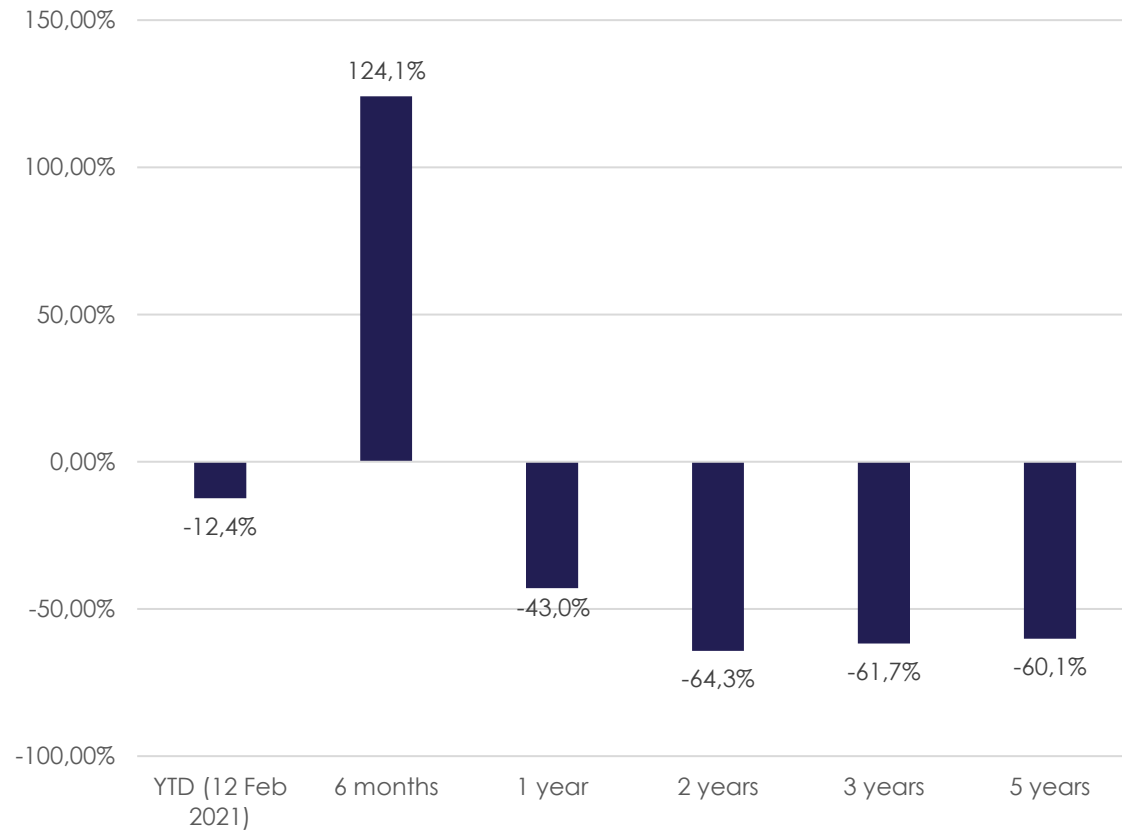
## **Agriculture**

- Sugar Master Plan
- Poultry Master Plan

## **Tourism**

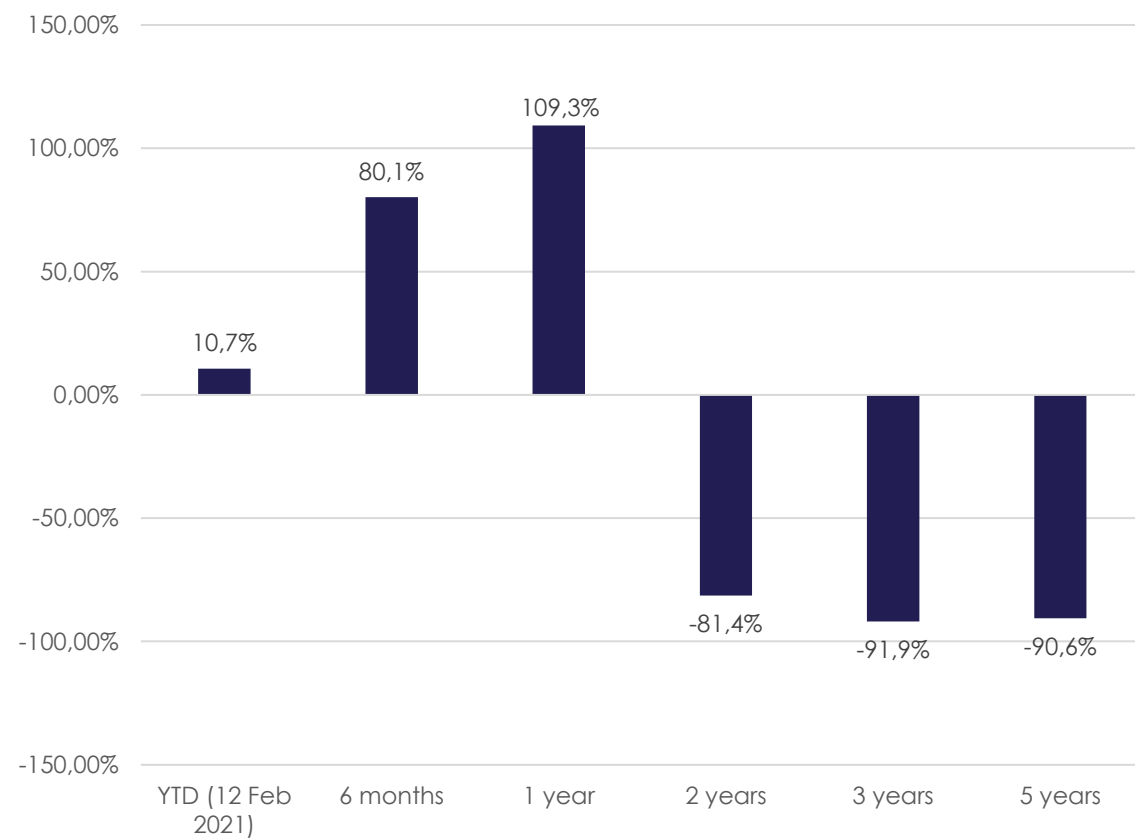
- Covid-19 impact
- VISA relaxation
- Tourism Equity Fund

## Historical performance





### Historical performance



# Gershwyn Benjamin

Junior Equity Research Analyst



# Retail and construction sectors

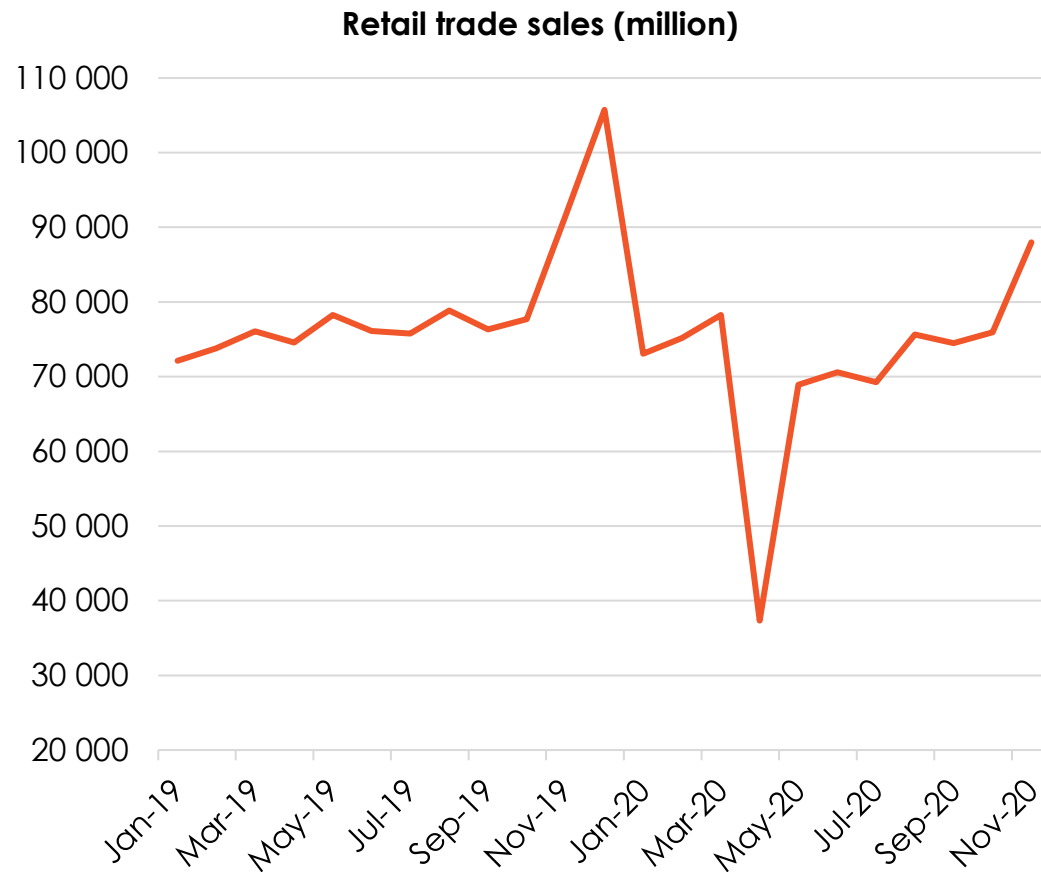
## **Retail**

- Extension of the TERS benefit and Covid-19 grant

## **Construction**

- R340-billion infrastructure pipeline
- Infrastructure development for IRP 2019
- Major themes in 2020
- Expectations for 2021
- Stock picks

# Sector themes: Retail sector



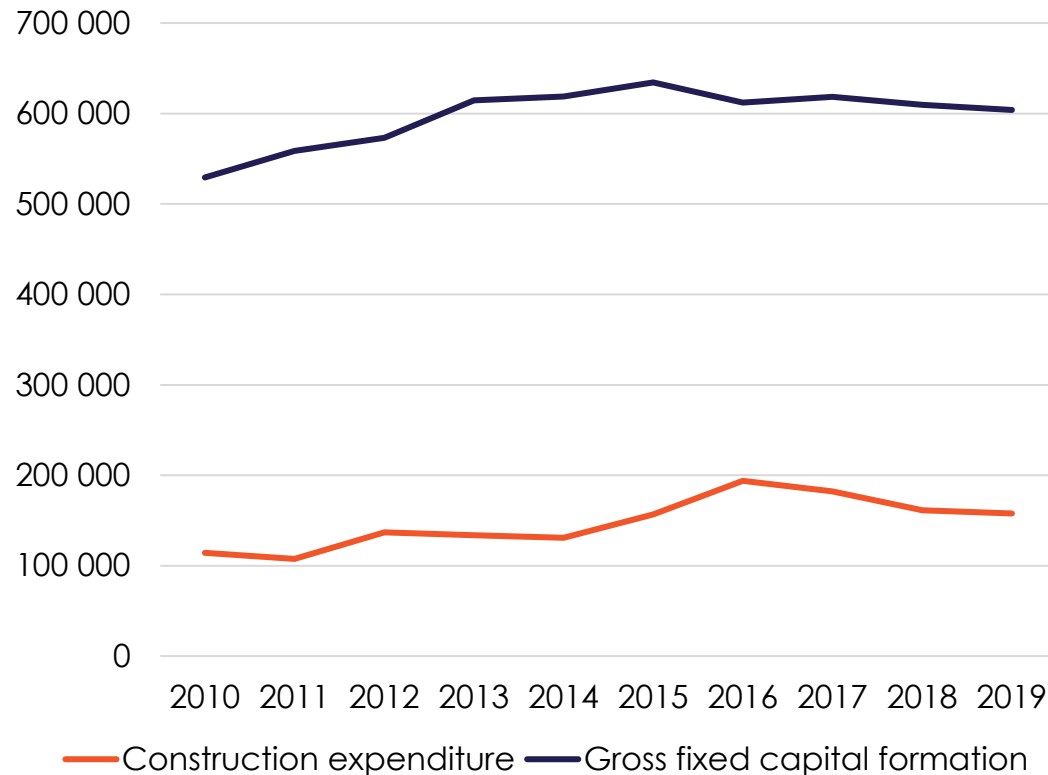
Source: Statistics South Africa

- Extension of the TERS benefit and Covid-19 grant
- Retail sales may not exceed the three-year average of R120bn in December 2020 (adjusted-lockdown level 3)
- Broad recovery in earnings expected for 2021



# Sector themes: Construction

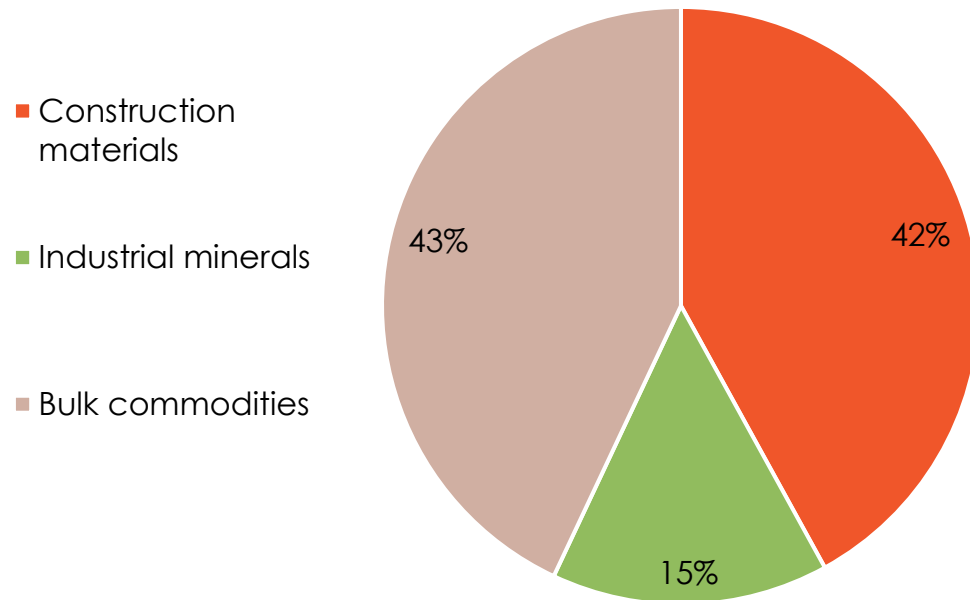
**Construction expenditure and gross fixed capital formation (million)**



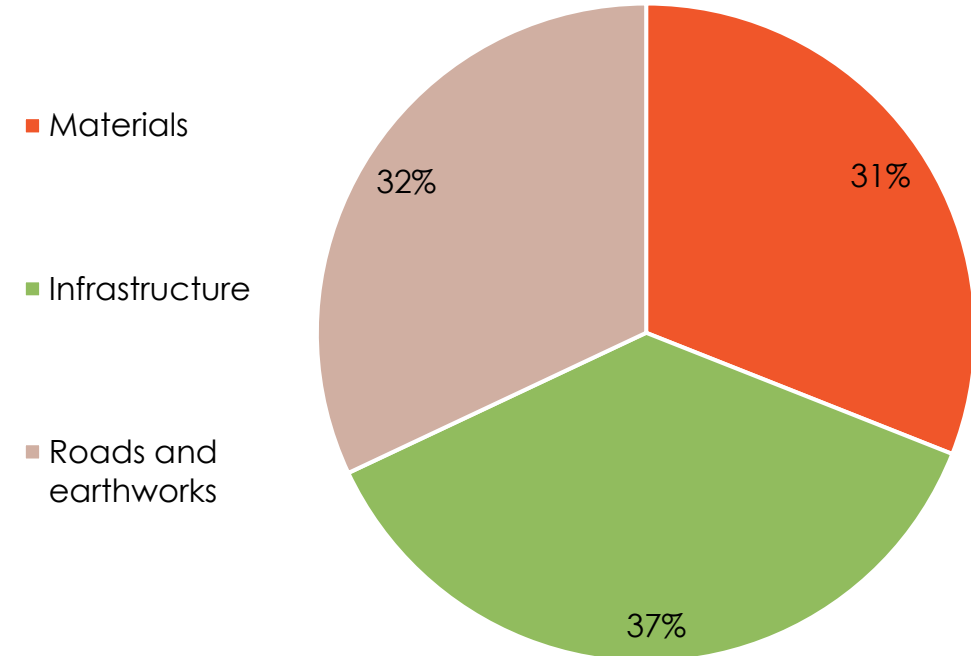
- Since a peak of R193bn in 2016, construction expenditure has declined by 6.6%
- Coincides with a decline in gross fixed capital formation of 0.4% over the same period
- Highlights the importance of government's R340bn infrastructure spending pipeline

# Stock Picks: Afrimat and Raubex

Afrimat revenue split



Raubex revenue split



Source: Company reports

# Stuart Theobald, PhD, CFA

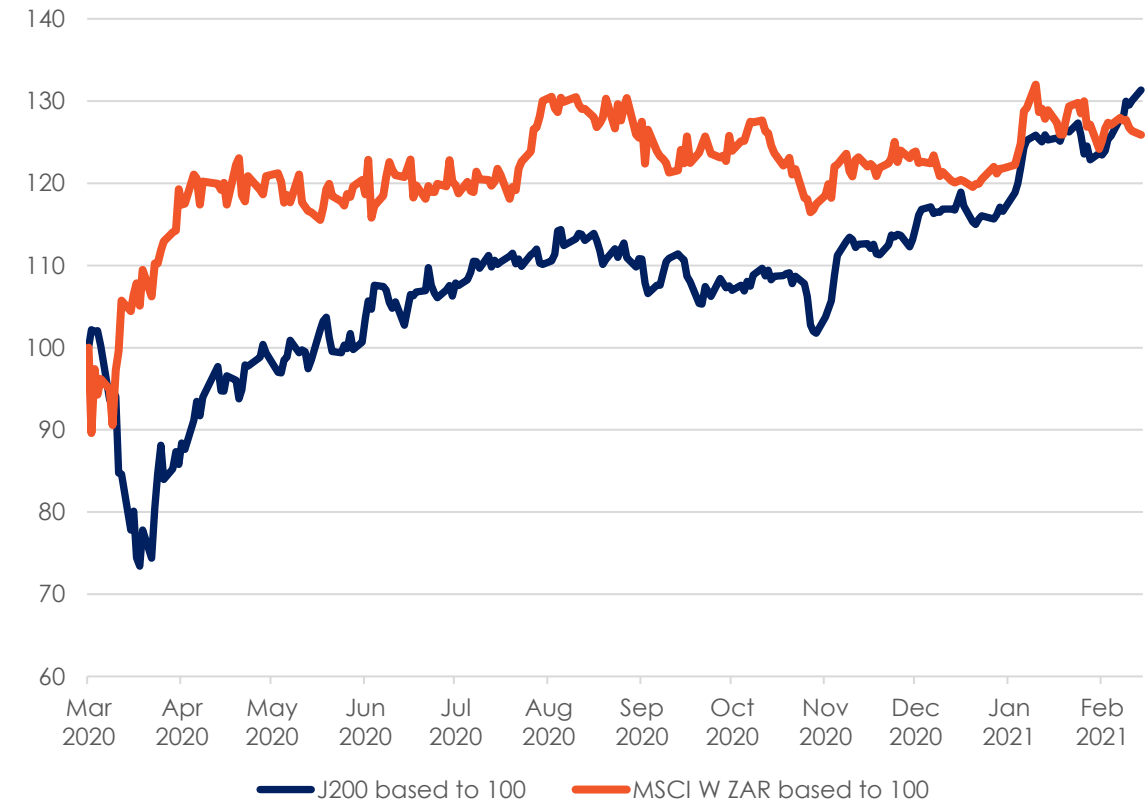
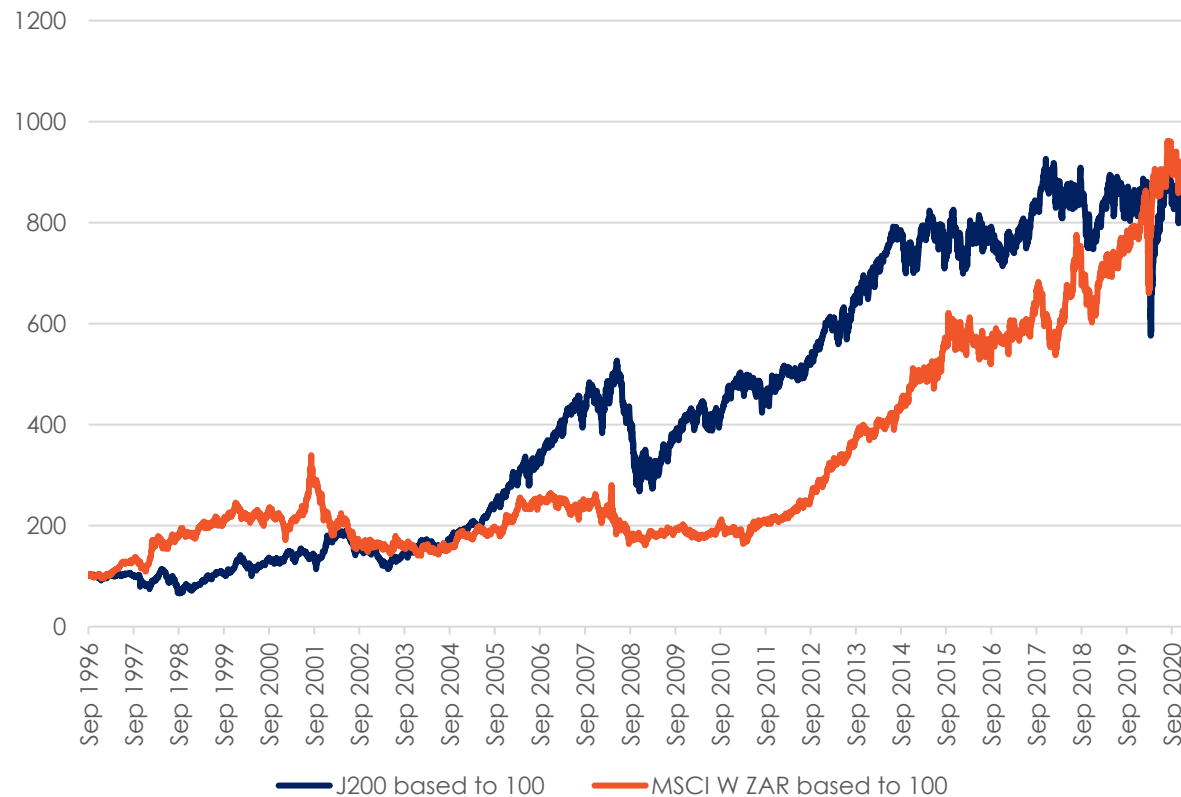
Chairman



# Don't dismiss SA markets too quickly

*Both in long and short run, JSE returns compete with global equity yields*

All Share Index vs MSCI World  
Based to 100 at start, both in ZAR



Any questions?

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