

MEDIA RELEASE

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DQS SOUTH AFRICA OPENS GOVERNANCE DOORS TO ITS SUPPLY CHAIN

CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd -- a specialist company involved in a wide range of corporate governance services -- announced last month that one of its latest Corporate Patrons is *DQS South Africa (Pty) Ltd*. Terry Booyesen, the CEO of CGF is delighted to see that more companies such as DQS are beginning to take an active lead to support good governance and its practices across all levels within their supply chain.

Supporting this notion, the Managing Director of DQS South Africa, Francois Labuschagne says, "it's one thing to talk about governance, it's altogether another matter practicing good governance throughout one's business and extended supply chain." Both business leaders agree that the best way to ensure sustainable business growth is by ensuring a company entrenches robust business practices which are ethical, and supported by all the company's stakeholders.

Getting the balance right between business growth, profits and good governance is not a task for the faint-hearted, and this is often a contentious debate in many boardrooms, both in South Africa and abroad. Of course if the subject of governance is seen as an 'intangible asset' or a 'tick-box' event; then matters can become very serious such where a company and its leaders could become subjected to a combination of financial penalties, criminal or civil lawsuits, reputational and brand damage, or even company closure. Increasingly companies are expected to understand and apply their minds to the manner in which poor governance affects their business, and this is not only a task for the AAA corporates, or those listed on a stock exchange. This is a matter which concerns all businesses, no matter their size.



Francois Labuschagne, MD: DQS South Africa (left) receives the CGF Corporate Patron certificate from Terry Booyesen (right), CEO of CGF. Also pictured from DQS are Debbie Becker: Operations & Certifications Manager, and Vusi Bongwe, MD: Operations Director

Says Booyesen, "many companies still today see any form of governance as a hindrance to their performance and bottom line, which in reality can be the case *if* the company is not applying its mind to the manner in which the company is to be governed." What needs to be clearly understood about applying good governance is the fact that it needs to be resident as an underlying principle of the company, demonstrated by the company's ethical behaviour, corporately and at individual levels.

Added to this -- similar to increasing the volume of a radio -- lies the intensity of 'how', 'where' and 'what' measures are to be taken in order to improve the company's corporate governance and integrated reporting. In short, there are varying degrees of how well governed a company can be and these levels are largely determined by the aptitude, attitude and appetite the company and its leaders have towards governance and its associated risks towards compliance.

This is where Labuschagne feels CGF has made a difference for many business executives in South Africa; such where the stigma of restricting business operations through a careless, non-sensible approach toward governance is entirely void of CGF's philosophy. Booyesen continues saying that CGF has always maintained that a company is, at the best of times established to make profit, and by over-

governing a company in a panic-type fashioned, is not only reckless, but indeed a guaranteed ticket for failure.

The Corporate Patron support between CGF and DQS holds many advantages. Not only will DQS be equipped to receive, learn and be able to practically apply measures to improve its own corporate governance practices, but their customers and suppliers also benefit through this initiative.

As is customary with CGF and its Corporate Patrons, all the customers and suppliers within DQS South Africa's supply chain will be able to qualify for substantially reduced pricing in the event that they wish to avail themselves of CGF's popular web-based *Corporate Governance Body of Knowledge*® software programme. This special offer will last for the two year period of Corporate Patronship, now also occupied by DQS South Africa.

"We are delighted with this collaborative partnership and through the Corporate Patron support of DQS, we are gradually growing support from more businesses and providing them access to the type of information that allows them to improve their own governance practices, and ultimately a better South Africa," says Booyesen.

Whilst Booyesen and Labuschagne agree the road ahead for organisations in South Africa is long, they both remain optimistic as more business leaders are beginning to include key components of governance within their strategic outlook, specifically to comply with the expectations of first world operators and their requirements.

DQS now joins the ranks of other CGF Corporate Patrons, namely iSPartners and Rifle-Shot Performance Holdings. This offer is also open to any other organisation who is willing to support CGF's good governance initiatives as a Corporate Patron.

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More information regarding DQS can be found at www.dqs.co.za
More information regarding CGF can be found at www.cgf.co.za

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