

Johannesburg

17 October 2012

MORE GOOD NEWS NEEDED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Considering all the bad news we hear about in the media about South Africa, undoubtedly there's a need to hear more about the good deeds being done by companies and individuals. At CGF Research Institute (CGF), we are bombarded daily with information that is usually linked to poor governance, poor risk management, fraud, crime and the like. Notwithstanding this bad news, it is imperative that we keep a *balanced perspective* and remember that there's also a lot of good things being achieved in South Africa. There are still very many good reasons to celebrate our freedom, our Constitution and our individual rights, and so much more.

"Yes", we need more good news, and this can be achieved when people change their mindsets, their hearts and deeds and stand together, which we South Africans call "ubuntu". We know that bad news "sells", and this is causing many in our society to become despondent, and who swell the ranks of the nay-sayers and critics in our country.

In contrast to the bad news that many of us have become so accustomed to reading or hearing; a great deal of *positive events* have gone by unnoticed, and which requires acknowledgement and celebrating. To this end, CGF decided to promote good news and has recently launched a *Good News project page* on its website to showcase the many 'good deed' projects and initiatives being conducted by South African companies, more particularly CGF's corporate subscribing clients. This has been a great opportunity in allowing ordinary South Africans to be aware of the enormous extent to which some companies have gone in terms of projects related to people and planet.

CGF believes that corporate governance should not only be seen as a set of strict rules; good governance also considers the importance of balance and that its outcome can bring about change for good. To this end, CGF has begun promoting good news comprising corporate social responsibility and sustainability projects, illustrating the manner in which companies are applying themselves in this area. A few noteworthy initiatives recently published on the CGF Good News webpage include:

- Pikitup: Rollout of Separation at Source Project (26 Sept '12)
- ContinuitySA: Building towards the Future (Posted 19 Sept '12)
- Game's AmaLunchbox promotes feeding with dignity at primary schools (Posted 19 Sept '12)
- EXXARO: Bakery for the community (Posted 19 Sept '12)
- Harmony Gold: Securing the future (Posted 28 Aug '12)
- FNB assists NICRO in empowering the youth (26 July '12)
- Ellies Renewable Energy successfully completes P1 (25 June '12)

These companies are making a positive and real difference in the lives of many people through their good deeds within their communities as well as -- in some respects -- our planet. If each company in South Africa -- no matter their size -- embarks upon similar projects, our country and its people would begin to feel the true meaning of ubuntu and 'togetherness'.

There's no doubt that we all have a role to play, no matter how small the contribution may be. South Africa needs to turn the tide on our seemingly gloomy situation underpinned by many who don't have employment, decent shelter, food and security. Indeed, from a corporate perspective, these are the very projects which we are called to account for in our Integrated Reporting.



South Africans can most definitely pride themselves for many of the positive developments taking place in the country, and companies can pave the way for a brighter future. For this reason, CGF encourages you to send us any such projects and initiatives – on an ongoing basis – and we will gladly assist in promoting your Good News stories through our website at no cost whatsoever. CGF would be delighted to “fly your banner high”, with the hope that more companies will follow your example as we build hope, mutual trust and respect in our nation.

Please send your Good News stories to Ms Ann-Donne Strydom at astrydom@cgf.co.za

See our Good News stories at:

<http://www.cgfresearchinstitute.com/GoodNewsProjects/OtherSustainabilityProjects/tabid/16357/Default.aspx>

About CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd

CGF is a Proudly South African company that specialises in conducting desktop research on Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) related topics. The company has developed numerous products that cover GRC reports designed to create a high-level awareness and understanding of issues impacting a CEO through to all employees of the organisation.

Through CGF's strategic partners -- supported by our Corporate Patrons *iS Partners, Rifle-shot Performance Holdings and DQS South Africa* -- our capabilities extend to GRC management consulting, executive placements, executive mentoring, company secretariat and the facilitation of Corporate Governance and Risk Awareness workshops. To find out more about CGF, our patrons and our associated services, please access www.cgf.co.za or www.corporate-governance.co.za

Words: 794

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