



GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Press Release

Oliphant elected unopposed to the UN-backed PRI Advisory Council

John Oliphant, Head: Investments and Actuarial and Acting Principal Officer of the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) was recently elected unopposed, as a representative for the Africa region to the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment's Advisory Council (PRIAC).

Arthur Moloto, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the GEPF said, "As the GEPF board, we are excited about John's election to the PRIAC. This is a vote of confidence in the GEPF's leadership in championing the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues within the GEPF's investment portfolio of R930 billion in South Africa and the broader African continent."

"In addition, this augurs well for the fund as responsible investing is one of the strategic objectives of the board, which I believe will be pursued even beyond the term of the current board. As fiduciaries, responsible investing is at the centre of everything we do as we believe that it will give our members sustainable returns in the long term."

Serving on the PRIAC, added Oliphant, presents exciting opportunities for the fund as we will be able to benchmark ourselves against some of the world's leading pension funds and share international best practice and experiences.

Commenting on Oliphant's election, Wolfgang Engshuber, Chairman of the PRI Advisory Council, said that he appreciated Oliphant's nomination as it showed his continued commitment and leadership role in responsible investment and the PRI. "I am looking forward to working with John through the PRI's next phase, which will be exciting as we will further broaden the network and drive content in the various ESG issues."

Moloto, concluded, "We intend sharing our expertise in the area of responsible investing with other asset owners on the African continent and the broader asset management industry."

Already, John chairs the committee that drafted the recently launched Code for Responsible Investing in South Africa (CRISA), and the PRI South Africa Network for signatories to the PRI, further underscoring the GEPF's leading role in advocating for the incorporation of ESG issues within the investment strategies of asset owners.

End

For more information, please contact Khaya Buthelezi, GEPF's communication manager on 012 424 7329 or 071 364 7296

Note to editors

For more information on GEPF's Responsible Investment Policy, please visit:
<http://www.gepf.gov.za/Investments/Pages/investmentpolicies.aspx>

For more information on CRISA, please visit:
http://www.iodsa.co.za/Portals/0/library/documents/CRISA_19_July_2011.pdf

For more information on the UN-backed PRI, please visit: www.unpri.org