



## Press release

### **LATEST SRI INDEX A BENCHMARK FOR LISTED COMPANIES AS SUSTAINABILITY BECOMES BUSINESS AS USUAL**

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"The continued presence of 45 companies who have successfully met the criteria of the Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Index since its inception 3 years ago, suggests that sustainability and public reporting on sustainability issues is becoming part of "doing business as usual" for many listed entities," says Nicky Newton-King, Deputy CEO of the JSE announcing the constituents of the 2006 SRI Index.

This year's SRI Index review sees the highest success rate of companies meeting the Index criteria since its inception, with 58 companies included on the Index this year out of a total of 62 companies who participated (2005: 49 out of 58 companies made it onto the index; in 2004: 51 out of 74 companies made the index). This year also sees the highest number of companies appearing on the Index.

SRI Index patron, prominent businesswoman and social entrepreneur, Graca Machel commenting on this year's results says: "We are inspired by the fact that the success rate of entrants has increased, and the far greater transparency is encouraging."

"We developed the Index with the clear intention to focus the debate on what the triple bottom line means for business in South Africa, whilst recognising the efforts of those companies with good sustainability practices," Newton-King continues.

"Recently, we've seen sustainability reports being structured according to Index criteria and understand that companies are using the Index criteria as an internal risk management tool. This indicates again the extent to which both the knowledge and understanding of sustainability is becoming ingrained in companies' daily processes and operations. It also indicates that our initial intentions in creating the Index are starting to gain traction as more and more organizations actively embrace the triple bottom line."

Well-known businessman Reuel Khoza, the Index's other patron, noted the leadership role that certain companies were taking with sustainability issues: "The SRI Index is coming of age as pre-eminent South African corporations take a leadership role in utilising it as an internal management tool to enhance their risk management."

Four new companies participated for the first time this year and all four made it onto the Index, which is again a new record. There are also a few companies who failed to meet the criteria last year that have been successful this year.

For the second year in a row, companies that have performed particularly well were highlighted according to their environmental classification (i.e.

high, medium or low impact companies) and in alphabetical order. This year however, the top performer in each of the impact categories is also being published.

Given that participation in the SRI Index is voluntary and is only offered to companies included in the FTSE/JSE All Share Index, Newton-King is pleased to see increasing representation from the small to mid-cap companies.

The SRI Index was the first of its kind in an emerging market and is constructed on the three pillars of the triple bottom line, namely: economic, environmental and social sustainability, with the principles of corporate governance common to all three elements.

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