

MEDIA RELEASE



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GIPF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE!

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) today concluded a two-day Responsible Investment Symposium (RIS) which commenced on 11 April 2024 in Windhoek. The unique event was dedicated to broadening horizons through robust conversation on the relevance and practical impacts of responsible investments in terms of the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) landscape and the GIPF's investment mandates.

The RIS was attended by over two hundred participants from leading partners, fund managers, policymakers, investors, and expert specialists who discussed pertinent issues on the latest local and global responsible investments and ESG strategies. The Symposium attracted over twenty (20) speakers from Namibia, and countries such as the United Kingdom, South Africa, the United States of America, and Senegal and close to two hundred (200) participants.

The Symposium provided a mind shift for participants by focussing on sustainability and ESG and the influence of same on geopolitics for international and international and national performance standards and attractiveness.

“The GIPF's strategic ambitions and performance expectations in relations to Responsible Investments were highlighted as this strategic stakeholder event emphasised and solidified GIPF's strategic ambitions and performance expectations of the Fund” said Martin Inkumbi, Chief Executive Officer/Principal Officer, of the GIPF.

Focus was established through this extraordinary platform on the new era of responsible investments, sustainability thinking and ESG. Various topics were deliberated on and provided insight into the value of responsible investments and investors on a nation's economy and the brand value of responsible investment. Participants exchanged ideas concerning market discussions on the changing role and expectations of responsible asset managers in the new era of Responsible Investments and ESG thinking.

Specialist keynote speaker from Senegal, Seynabou Ba who is the Founder of ESG Africa and previous Head of ESG of the IFC for Sub Saharan Africa presented on the macro changes in the world and the requirement for new establishing mindsets, skillsets and success criteria, a new era of sustainability thinking a cause for inspiration.

RSI speakers divulged information outlining how impact investing that is focused on people, planet, profit, and purpose result in profit and meaningful impact and outcomes.

Speakers also shared information and knowledge on transforming Namibia through green manufactory, sustainable finances evolution, and the road ahead. This topic was explored through a market presentation on the evolution of Sustainable Finance, and an overview of the current trends across Financial Services. Perspective was shed on the financial sector outlook on the future from an expert perspective on the evolutionary role of Sustainable Finance, and how the financing world is responding and being influenced by it.

Reflecting on the conclusion of the Symposium, the Chief Executive Officer/Principal Officer of the GIPF stated that "Responsible Investment is integral to the GIPF's business model. Through the lens of sustainability, the Fund aims to capture value, mitigate relevant risks, and remain forward-looking to be part of the Responsible Investment community, to the extent that it is attainable".

The GIPF has over the last few months, embarked on the journey to set up systems to ensure that the Responsible Investment and ESG analysis, interpretation and reporting become an important part of the Funds investment processes.

“The Symposium provided an internal perspective on the real challenges experienced by the Fund and Asset Managers in embedding Responsible Investment thinking. The RIS provided a platform for a bird’s eye view through honest discussion about the practical challenges, mindsets, hurdles and choices around boardroom tables of the GIPF and Asset Managers in implementing sustainability and ESG requirements, and why there is still a sense of resistance,” Inkumbi concluded .

The GIPF continues to meet its member-centric strategic focus by ensuring returns on investments that shall positively impact on the Namibian economy through continued growth and guaranteed benefits for all its members.

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