

# MEDIA RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 October 2024

### GIPF CELEBRATES GLOBAL ETHICS DAY

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) today hosted a Global Ethics Day Celebration event for its employees to raise awareness on promoting the importance of ethical behaviour within the Fund. Global Ethics Day has been celebrated for the past 11 years and was initiated by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs based in New York, USA with the aim to raise awareness on ethics to find solutions to issues facing society. The day is celebrated annually on the third Wednesday of October. This year the day is celebrated on Wednesday, 16 October 2024.

The Fund hosted Professor Bonang Mohale as the keynote speaker at its Global Ethics Day Celebrations for its employees. Professor Mohale is the President of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), Chancellor of the University of the Free State, Professor of Practice in the Johannesburg Business School (JBS) College of Business and Economics and Chairman of The Bidvest Group Limited, SBV Services and ArcelorMittal! He is a member of the Community of Chairpersons (CoC) of the World Economic Forum and author of the best-selling books, “Lift as You Rise” and “Behold the Turtle”. He has been included in the Reputation Poll International’s (RPI) 2023 list of the ‘100 Most Reputable Africans’. The selection criteria are Integrity, Reputation, Transparency, Visibility, and Impact.

Speaking at the event Professor Mohale on the topic “*Workplace ethics as a catalyst for corporate/organisational success*” said “Good companies are companies where leadership is accountable, whilst healthy companies are where colleagues are sufficiently liberated and empowered to hold each other accountable. Professor Mohale added that if you tell the truth at all times, you do not have to have a good memory.

At the same occasion, the Fund moderated a panel discussion on “*Ethics empowered: learning from others*” with expert panellist Ms. Thekla Semoni Jarmanns an accomplished Human Resources Specialist with over 25 years of business experience, Ms. Yvette Zoe Nambahu, an admitted attorney of the High Court of Namibia with over 15 years’ post admission experience and currently employed as the Chief Legal Advisor, Compliance and Company Secretariat at NamPower and Ms. Saima Ashipala, Chief Risk Officer, at the Development Bank of Namibia.

The Fund places significant emphasis on ethics in the workplace as it remains committed to upholding high ethical and moral standards in all its undertakings in providing pension benefits to its members, spousal, child annuitants with the utmost integrity.

In his opening remarks the Chief Executive Officer/Principal Officer of the GIPF, Mr. Martin Inkumbi stated “we acknowledge the pivotal role that the Fund plays in Namibia, which role impacts not only the Funds members, pensioners, and beneficiaries but also society at large. Central to being meaningful to our stakeholders, both internal and external, is the need to be ethical in all our dealings and decision-making.” Inkumbi added that ethics creates trust and breeds legitimacy in the eyes of all that we are associated with. Hence it is critical that we place ethics at the top of the Funds agenda.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Evans Maswahu, Vice Chairperson of the GIPF Board of Trustees said “the Board of Trustees of the GIPF has and will always prioritise the integration of ethical standards in the Fund’s strategy and operations. This drives ethical standards from the top and informs our business practice, procedures, policies, and conduct. I am pleased to participate and witness activities such as today which stems from the implementation of organisation-wide ethics management programmes and initiatives”.

The GIPF employees ended the celebrations with the signing of a pledge where they vow to uphold the highest standards of integrity in all their actions and decisions by acting ethically, being transparent, respecting confidentiality, promoting fairness, taking responsibility and championing integrity.

The Fund practices good corporate governance and commits to the principle of integrity, and continuously strives to be honest, fair, transparent, ethical, and trustworthy in all its dealings. The GIPF achieves this by demonstrating ethical behaviour in terms of acting and demonstrating fairness, compassion to stakeholders, integrity, honour, and responsibility. This has resulted in ethical conduct that is intrinsic to meeting stakeholder expectations.

**#ENDS#**

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