

Johannesburg

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### ADVOCATE THULI MADONSELA: BOLSTERING GOVERNANCE WITH CGF

Advocate Thulisile ('Thuli') Nomkhosi Madonsela is no stranger to millions of people across the world, and she has been a part of South Africa's political landscape for many years. Given her notable legal background and vast experience as a Human Rights lawyer and Equality expert, Thuli fulfilled an instrumental role in the Constitutional Assembly in drafting South Africa's new Constitution during the period that saw Tata Nelson Mandela become the first black president of South Africa.

Thuli is best known for her strong values and resilient belief in good governance, which is why she is notably the most recognised Public Protector to date in South Africa. It is because of her solid standing as a South African citizen -- and one who as a public servant has fearlessly tackled corruption -- that she has become one of the most admired women leaders across the globe. Thuli was born on 28 September 1962 in Johannesburg, and she was raised in Soweto where she later became an assistant teacher and taught on a temporary basis from 1980 to 1983. Whilst her ways are quiet and humble, and always respectful, Thuli is described by Oprah Winfrey, the *Time* magazine and many others as a "woman with a backbone of steel". Amongst her many accolades, Thuli was nominated as South Africa's person of the year and was featured in *Time* magazine's 2014 List of 100 Most Influential People in the World.



Advocate Thuli Madonsela accepts an Honorary Patronship from Terrance Booysen, CEO of CGF Research Institute

As the Public Protector, Thuli was appointed by President Jacob Zuma -- recommended by parliament -- on a non-renewable seven-year term commencing 15 October 2009. She has a 'no-nonsense approach' to corruption which is very much needed in South Africa, particularly considering that the country is estimated to be losing approximately R25-R30bn each year due to corruption in state procurement. Indeed, it will require strong and committed leadership, together with the help of business and civil society to arrest the corruptive practices in South Africa which has cost the country around R675 billion since 1994.

As one of the world's most influential people -- and right on our doorstep -- CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd ('CGF') is truly honoured that *Advocate Thuli Madonsela* has agreed to join the prestigious ranks of CGF's Honorary Patrons. The Honorary Patron appointments -- which are rotated every two years -- have expectedly had a positive effect upon the governance services being offered by CGF to its broad range of clients, which extends well beyond our customary research and reporting. To this extent, the additional value Thuli brings to CGF is invaluable, especially considering her values of human dignity and equality, which are among the founding values of our democracy.

*"Thuli Madonsela is an inspirational example of what African public officers need to be. Her work on constitutional reform, land reform and the struggle for the protection of human rights and equality speaks for itself. As South Africa's public protector, with her ability to speak truth to power and to address corruption in high places, Madonsela has been outstanding."*

**Lamido Sanusi - Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (2009-2014)**



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## MEDIA RELEASE

Similar to all our esteemed Honorary Patrons, who include Professor Steven Friedman, Amy Kleinhans-Curd, Professor Jonathan Jansen, Wendy Luhabe, Tina Eboka, Bernard Peter Agulhas, Michael Judin, Devi Sankaree Govender, Professor Shirley Zinn and Dr Mathews Phosa; each Patron is carefully selected not only because they are exceptional leaders with great depth, knowledge and wisdom, but also because they act as a sounding board for our clients or for CGF when difficult matters or decisions need to be considered within our company.

Thuli obtained her Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Swaziland in 1987, and her LLB in 1990 from the University of the Witwatersrand. She was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree, LLD Honoris Causa (Fort Hare, 2014) and LLD Honoris Causa from the University of Stellenbosch on 26 March 2015.

In 1993 she started her legal career working for the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and prior to being appointed as the Public Protector in 2012, she worked for the Department of Justice as a deputy director. Prior to Thuli's appointment as Public Protector, in 2007 she was appointed by the previous President Thabo Mbeki, as a full time member of the South African Law Reform Commission. She is also no stranger to trade unions, and in her past years, Thuli also worked for trade unions in both the private and public sectors.

Indeed it is with great pride that we welcome Advocate Thuli Madonsela in our midst, being notably one of the finest ambassadors of good governance in the world. As South Africans, if we are to stand true to the values we espouse in our Bill of Rights, we all need to focus upon good governance in order to make South Africa a better place for all. This includes amongst other, the strengthening of our constitutional democracy by investigating and redressing improper and prejudicial conduct, addressing maladministration and abuse of power, reducing poverty, and dealing decisively with corruption.

**ENDS**

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