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AMY KLEINHANS-CURD: AN EARLY GOVERNANCE PIONEER

In recent years, South Africa has been known across the world for its remarkable ability to conquer some of the most amazing feats known to mankind; and more specifically those related to uniting people across racial lines. But with such achievements, one must not forget the many personal sacrifices and the pain thousands of people endured to achieve this remarkable transformation witnessed in 1994, when the previous apartheid government unbanned the African National Congress (ANC) and set Nelson Mandela free after 27 years of incarceration.

As we ponder over the significance of this violent-free transformation -- and considering the monumental price one man paid for the freedom for all South Africa's people to be free -- we should also not overlook the many 'smaller battles' undertaken by thousands of ordinary people who stood behind the values and principles Mandela was prepared to die for.

At the height of this era, there were many people who were forced to leave the country and live in exile; and then there were those who stayed behind and fought their battle for the freedom of South Africa in other ways. Undoubtedly, there are many untold stories and unsung heroes; but one that South Africans probably are not aware of happened on an international stage in Sun City on 12 December 1992, and was spear-headed by none other than our very own first non-white winner of Miss South Africa -- *Ms. Amy Kleinhans* -- when she was placed forth runner-up to the Miss World Title.



Mrs. Amy Kleinhans-Curd accepts
an Honorary Patronship from CGF
Research Institute

Understandably, whilst Amy may have been somewhat bewildered by the glitz and glamour of such an auspicious event (as is usually the case with many young adults reaching this type of celebrity status), what differentiated Amy from her competitors -- both locally and abroad -- was her deep rooted ethical grounding and mature sense of responsibility, fairness and transparency.

What many people still may not know about this remarkable woman is that she out-rightly refused to represent South Africa with the old Republic of South Africa flag when she was asked to fly the flag on an international podium; lamenting that it did not represent *all the people of South Africa*. Rightly so. Notwithstanding her tender age, the maturity and wisdom Amy demonstrated that memorable evening did not only capture the world's attention, it also prompted Madiba to phone her that same evening, thanking her for her immense courage to also tackle head on the racial oppressors in South Africa. That evening, Amy took a white flag onto the international stage; symbolically her flag represented peace and hope for a new South Africa which happened two years later. Of course, Amy knew she could not defy her true values which had been ingrained, and intellectually she applied her honesty about South Africa which became yet another battle won for the sake of our country's democracy.

Expectedly, these actions taken on the part of true leaders do not happen sporadically, neither by chance. To this extent, Amy has shown her countrymen her true heart for all the people of South Africa; and still today she continues her cause and is involved in many corporate, social and other business initiatives to improve the lives of many.

MEDIA RELEASE

Accordingly, it is with immense pride that CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd welcomes *Mrs. Amy Kleinhans-Curd* as an Honorary Patron in our company. As is the case with all our esteemed Honorary Patrons, who include 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 CGF when difficult matters or decisions need to be considered within our company, but also for our clients.

The Honorary Patron appointments -- which are rotated every two years -- have expectedly had a positive effect upon the overall governance services being offered by CGF to its broad range of clients, which extends well beyond our research and reporting. To this extent, the additional value Amy brings to CGF is invaluable, especially considering the first-hand experiences she has had to endure regarding racial discrimination, prejudices against ethnic and cultural divides, including the ramifications when children are not provided a decent education.

Amy is the daughter of a school headmaster and a teacher, and firmly believes that her business successes are rooted in her education. She is passionate about the youth of South Africa and the adversity they face, more so their education - specifically for the impoverished and childheaded families.

Expectedly, Amy has spent a great part of her professional career focussing on education, and runs **"Dial-a-Teacher"**, a telephonic tutor service and research engine which currently supports circa 300 000 families. Besides her work in the education sector, Amy also has a company called **Business Growth Solution**, which assists small micro medium enterprises (SMMEs) to grow and remain sustainable in the South African economy.

Amy brings much joy to the people around her - her engaging smile and radiant personality is felt the moment you meet her. She is the patron of a number of charities, including the Sunshine Association for the Disabled and Delayed in Gauteng, Lifeline/Childline Western Cape, LEAP (School of advanced Science and Maths) and Life College.

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About CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd

CGF is a Proudly South African company that specialises in conducting desktop research on Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) related topics. The company has developed numerous products that cover GRC reports designed to create a high-level awareness and understanding of issues impacting a CEO through to all employees of the organisation.

Through CGF's strategic partners -- supported by our Corporate Patrons *Rifle-shot Performance Holdings and DQS South Africa* -- our capabilities extend to GRC management consulting, executive placements, executive mentoring, group wellness, company secretariat and the facilitation of Corporate Governance and Risk Awareness workshops.

To find out more about CGF, our patrons and our associated services, please access www.cgf.co.za , www.corporate-governance.co.za or www.governanceconnect.mobi

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A battle lost or won is easily described, understood, and appreciated, but the moral growth of a great nation requires reflection, as well as observation, to appreciate it.

Frederick Douglass

1818-1895

(African American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman)

