

### NATIONAL SURVEY: CGF's GOVERNANCE TRAINING RATED TOPS

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In an independent South African Corporate Governance Climate Survey ('the Survey') conducted by De Facto in April 2015, CGF Research Institute ('CGF') was ranked by one-hundred and forty business leaders as the leading organisation in the provision of corporate governance training. Sixty nine percent (69%) of the respondents recognised CGF as experts in corporate governance training in South Africa, no doubt as a result of CGF's well-known delivery of high value and affordable training.

The Survey also ranked the 'independence' of the leading brands known to provide governance consulting services. In this section, for contenders to be considered the 'most independent' as compared to their rivals, they were required to attain a mean score of 1. Again, CGF was ranked the most independent corporate governance supplier in South Africa by 48% of the respondents, with a mean score of 1.6, well ahead of its next rival who was scored at 2.3.

The Survey further addressed 'trustworthiness' in the provision of governance news and updates, including training. With a maximum score of 10 -- being the bar of 'most trustworthy'-- CGF was ranked in first position with a score of 9.1. A well-known non-profit organisation that also specialises in governance services was ranked in second position with a score of 8.2, and interestingly these two organisations were placed well ahead of the major auditing and consulting firms in South Africa.

Expectedly CGF is delighted with these results which provide a fair and representative view of the local market's current sentiments; however the company is the first to recognise that surveys of any kind should be used with great caution. While CGF is not the biggest corporate governance training provider in South Africa, it certainly appears that CGF's renowned *Governance Beyond Boards®* Interventions and its *Corporate Governance Framework®* Workshops are considered the best and most affordable governance training in South Africa.

*"Governance Beyond Boards® Intervention is an enormously insightful programme for anyone keen in acquiring a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of directorship and prescribed officers in relation to governance, risk and compliance. In my humble view, this is a 'must attend programme for anyone serious to develop the requisite skills for effective corporate governance.'"*

**Dr. Siyabonga Ndabezitha (Independent)**

Regretfully there are many people -- including a number of unreliable organisations -- claiming to be so-called 'experts' in the corporate governance arena. And through their superficial masking, including outdated and impractical training agendas, they deny delegates the real value of proper governance education and skills transfer. To exacerbate this situation even further, many 'training providers' appear to be using external training (and conferences) as a platform to charge delegates ridiculous prices and this has resulted in many organisations placing a moratorium on most external training.

Many organisations complain of unscrupulous operators who typically charge from R12,000.00 and above for less than a week's training per person. Besides the fact that these operators will often falsely advertise a well-known subject matter expert to present on complex governance subjects, they furthermore lure delegates to attend their training by offering elaborate 'gifts' and a myriad of unrealistic claims. To top it all, at the eleventh hour delegates are often disappointed when the originally advertised presenter does not arrive for the training or the conference, and the organisers then make inappropriate and last minute substitutions. Clearly, this dire situation not only has a massive and negative impact on the legitimate training providers, but also costs organisations and their employees a great deal of money.

CGF's governance training avoids the usual frills; quite simply we get down to the business of training delegates in a simple and pragmatic manner. CGF sets the benchmark for offering the most recent and up-to-date governance courses available. CGF is passionate in its belief in the power of knowledge and skills transfer, and the company's mantra is to optimise an organisation's intellectual capital through the effective training of its employees. To this end -- and in support of our successes -- CGF prides itself to consistently deliver the right solutions at the right time and at the most competitive cost to all our clients. As a testimony to this commitment CGF's two-day *Governance Beyond Boards®* Intervention, which provides an impressive blend of academic and



practical items in the agenda, is offered at R3,500.00 excluding 14% VAT per delegate. Staying in line with this affordable pricing policy, CGF's one-day *Corporate Governance Framework®* Workshop, which provides organisations a value-packed set of materials to physically produce their organisation's Corporate Governance Framework®, is charged at R2,200.00 excluding 14% VAT per delegate. In both cases, these prices include full course materials, a textbook, certificates of attendance and refreshments. These training courses are accredited by the South African Board for People Practice (SABPP), as well as the Institute of Risk Management South Africa (IRMSA) and delegates are awarded 34 and 17 CPD (Continued Professional Development) points respectively for this training. As a further option, in order to reduce the costs of training for organisations, CGF also offers this training on an in-house basis -- with additional benefits -- such where a flat day rate is charged irrespective of the number of delegates in attendance.

CGF has had many years of first-hand experience in researching and reporting on a myriad of governance topics; this is important because there is no doubt that the manner in which organisations practice their governance policies continue to receive much attention locally and internationally. As more high-profile company collapses continue with many questionable and unethical business practices, organisations have to depend even more on employees to understand the gravitas of poor governance, and jointly assist their organisations to arrest this insidious rot. Interestingly, over eighty percent of the respondents in the Survey stated that good governance [and its practical application] was an important component of their organisation's growth strategy. Moreover, seventy two percent (72%) of respondents stated organisations that practice good governance were in their opinion, more profitable.

*"Thanks for the inspirational and credible leadership example. Our interest in governance is complimentary so there's additional value."*

**Prof. Anthony Turton**

*"You have upskilled my knowledge on corporate governance to an extent that I am now able to confidently identify and find solutions to our company's business gaps and the critical role GRC has in an organisation. I will certainly now be more useful to our board and management team."*

**Mwiche N. Sichone (Zambia)**

Drawing from the sentiments expressed in the Survey, this is indeed where CGF has become a notable training authority which prides itself on providing delegates relevant governance training and materials across South Africa and the continent at large. While CGF has a few competitors in the training arena, we are acutely aware -- as was confirmed by the Survey -- that most organisations are not fixated on the differences of King II or King III for that matter. Expectedly, our training goes well beyond the provisions of the King Codes on Governance for South Africa. Interestingly, while fifty seven percent (57%) of the respondents believed good governance practices would provide a more sustainable business, and fifty six percent (56%) believed good governance improved risk management; only thirteen percent (13%) of the directors and senior management referred frequently to King III when determining the strategy for their organisation. Forty percent (40%) of those respondents working in excess of ten years in their organisations stated they have never referred to King III. While these figures may reveal some interesting trends, they certainly raise a number of questions pertaining to what organisations find useful or not.

The practical manner in which CGF facilitates all its governance training is a well-known hallmark of the company. The main presenter of this training, Terrance M. Booysen, has received numerous accolades by delegates who have attended his training sessions through the years. Whether the training is done on-site or at a public venue, delegates often comment on the value they receive in CGF's training which is augmented with knowledgeable facilitation and delegate interaction, practical examples, including the professional and up to-date reading materials they receive.

No matter whether you or your organisation are looking for a one-hour corporate governance update for your board of directors, or a training schedule over an extended period of time for the executive management and employees of the organisation; CGF will always strive to exceed your overall training requirements. **ENDS**

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