

NEWS RELEASE
Thursday 22nd September 2011



High expectations on companies in South Africa to contribute to social development

The Institute of Business Ethics offers a synopsis of the current trends and challenges in business ethics and corporate responsibility in South Africa.

A new Occasional Paper published today by the Institute of Business Ethics explores the particular cultural factors influencing business ethics in South Africa, the salient business ethics challenges that companies face and current trends in corporate responsibility.

It describes the priority issues for businesses operating in South Africa as:

- Combating bribery, corruption and fraud by supporting staff to **speak up** about their concerns
- Understanding how the legacy of Apartheid has shaped the business environment and expectations of **corporate social investment**
- Ensuring that ethical values underpin board level decision making and behaviours as prescribed by **The King Reports on Corporate Governance**
- Managing high levels of **conflicts of interest**
- Achieving a **diverse workforce** through the policy of '**Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment**'
- The duty of care for employees with **HIV/AIDS**.

Philippa Foster Back OBE, Director of the IBE, says *"This paper is invaluable for any company operating or considering operating in South Africa. The issues it covers are critical for ensuring that a company's ethics programme is effective and relevant there."*

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For further information, please contact:
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN OVERVIEW OF ETHICAL ASPECTS

By Judith Irwin

ISBN 978-0-9562183-9-1

Price £10 or free PDF from the IBE website: www.ibe.org.uk

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IBE Occasional Papers address ethical issues, challenges and good practice on a wide range of topics. Other recent publications include a *Good Practice Guide to Ethics in Decision-making* (2011) and an *Occasional Paper on Religious Practices in the Workplace* (2011).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Judith Irwin is Senior Researcher at the Institute of Business Ethics where she researches and writes on a range of business ethics issues and good practice. Her most recent publication is the *Good Practice Guide to Ethics Ambassadors* (co-author 2010).

The Institute of Business Ethics (IBE) is a non-profit professional organisation, which encourages high standards of business behaviour based on ethical values. They raise public awareness of the importance of doing business ethically, and collaborate with other UK and international organisations with interests and expertise in business ethics.

www.ibe.org.uk

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