

ABSA GROUP LIMITED  
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)  
(Registration number: 1986/003934/06)  
ISIN: ZAE000067237  
JSE share code: ASA  
Issuer code: AMAGB  
(Absa or Absa Group)

ABSA BANK LIMITED  
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)  
(Registration number: 1986/004794/06)  
ISIN: ZAE000079810  
JSE share code: ABSP  
(Absa Bank)

INTENTION TO STEP DOWN AS INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN AND NON-EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF THE ABSA GROUP AND ABSA BANK BOARDS

Garth Griffin, Chairman of the Absa Group and Absa Bank boards, has announced his intention to retire once a successor is appointed. Mr Griffin will be available for re-election as a director at the Absa Group Annual General Meeting on 3 May 2012 and, if re-elected, will continue to serve as Chairman until such time as a successor is appointed.

Mr Griffin has served on the Absa Group and Absa Bank boards since 2001 and took up the position of chairman of these boards on 1 October 2010.

On behalf of all members of the board, Maria Ramos, Absa Group Chief Executive, said: "Garth has brought strong leadership and years of experience in the financial sector to the Absa boards. His contribution to our business over the past 11 years has been invaluable and we are grateful that he has offered to remain in his role as chairman until we have appointed a successor."

An announcement on Mr Griffin's successor will be made in due course.

Johannesburg  
14 March 2012

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