

## **Press release**

### **NAKO ILISO's Clint Koopman steps down as CEO and steps up to new challenges**

NAKO ILISO has announced that the company's CEO, Clint Koopman, will step down as CEO, so that he can focus on leading the company as Managing Director for the Structures Business Unit (SBU). Fuzile Felix Fongoqa, Executive Chairman of NAKO ILISO remarked that Clint has been instrumental in leading the company through phases of unprecedented growth, notably the formation of the NAKO Group following the transaction which resulted in three wholly owned South African Engineering companies joining forces to form an African engineering powerhouse, and the establishment of a joint venture company called NAKO SYSTRA with a French multi-national, SYSTRA, the third largest transportation planning, rail and mass transit Engineering company in the world. His skill in navigating the company through challenging economic downturns experienced during 2008 and 2010, and once again during 2016 and 2017 bears testament to the caliber of leader that Clint continues to be, along with the effective systems and procedures he's already established.

After Clint's decision to step down as CEO was received, the NAKO ILISO board used this opportunity to revisit its operational structure and have decided to appoint Eldred Boonzaaier as its new Chief Operations Officer. Fuzile Fongoqa, our current Executive Chairman, will take on the responsibilities of CEO. "Further announcements on new additions to our board will follow soon. These new additions will improve our gender representation at top management level", said Fongoqa.

"NAKO ILISO is a unique company with an excellent track record. I have been extremely honored to have led a team of highly professional, ethical and extremely competent Engineers over the last eleven and a half years. The work ethic of our staff and support from the board of Directors and senior leadership of the company made my work easy and enjoyable," Koopman said.

The core team of senior management have been together for more than 20 years. Finding a successor from internal resources with the in-depth knowledge of the systems, procedures

and business intelligence was thus very easy. “Fuzile is a fantastic strategist with an admirable profile in the industry. We are confident that under his continued leadership and renewed focus, we will grow the business even further. Eldred compliments Fuzile very well with his astute management style and eye for detail,” said Koopman.

Clint is an effective and dynamic leader, and feels that his true passion is firmly entrenched in engineering, particularly within the highly demanding discipline of bridge design. It is in this sphere that Clint wishes to continue serving both his passion and the interests of the company – as the MD for the SBU.

“There have been extremely turbulent times due to the change in the procurement regulations, the worst depression in 2008 followed by a second depression we are currently exiting, in addition to other industry-related challenges. I am saddened by the reported levels of corruption that have plagued our country over the last few years and the impact it had on our elite profession. I am extremely proud of how we have maintained our core values of people, integrity and excellence during this time. I’m excited at the prospect of getting involved in the business of engineering – building bridges - once again, and will continue to be a servant of this company, hopefully for many years to come,” added Koopman.

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## **ABOUT NAKO ILISO**

NAKO ILISO is an African Consulting Engineering and Project Management firm that specialises in engineering, environmental and project management services. Established in 1995, NAKO ILISO is widely recognised as one of the most professionally managed consulting engineering firms in Africa today, with a team of directors and senior executives who are experts in their chosen fields. Each member of this formidable team offers a range of combined experience in their areas of specialty. In addition, NAKO ILISO has over 250 highly competent technical and support staff, all working together to deliver sustainable high quality assets that not only meet but also exceed client expectations. Since its establishment,

the founding members of NAKO ILISO have elected that shareholding within the company will reflect its philosophy. The NAKO ILISO philosophy is to be known as an independent professional practice, owned and managed entirely by engineers and technologists who demonstrate exceptional competence, professionalism, honesty and integrity.

NAKO ILISO is 100%-owned by engineers who work for the company on a full-time basis and more than 95% of its shareholding is held by black individuals. NAKO ILISO is managed by its board, comprising of nine executive and two non-executive members with equal voting power. The Board is responsible for all statutory functions relating to the company, including: strategy, goals, policies and overall leadership.

The day-to-day management of the company's operations has been delegated to various executive directors, technical directors and executive managers.

**Read more at:** <http://www.iliso.com/company-overview/>

**FOR FUTURE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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