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MEDIA RELEASE

Ref: No. 277

Pick n Pay (PnP) Namibia says goodbye to a veteran

WINDHOEK, 13 NOVEMBER 2016

He started his journey at the Ohlthaver & List (O&L) Group on 16 July 1996 and was captured by the environment which he found impossible to sacrifice for any other opportunity outside the group. Twenty-one (21) years later, Gilbert Botha hands over his leadership position to the young and vibrant Victoria Moller, as he retires as one of the most valuable and committed members the proudly Namibian O&L Group has ever seen.

Botha: "When I look back, I realize that it is the environment this organization creates for its people that kept me in the O&L Group. The group's values, and its purpose 'Creating a future, enhancing life' for all Namibians have become such a vital part of my life. It has been a fantastic journey in this body that beholds so much opportunity for growth, and simply maintains an environment of freedom that allows you to explore all your skills and talents."

Botha started his O&L journey at Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) as Divisional Manager for the North of the country, and in August 1998 moved to Namibia Dairies (ND) to occupy the position of National Sales Manager. Two years later in July, he returned to NBL as Trade Marketing Manager – a position he held for eight years until Namibia Dairies appointed him again – this time as Field Sales Manager/Trade Marketing Manager. In April 2008 Botha was appointed by PnP Namibia as its Marketing Manager until earlier this year, in January when he reached retirement. Botha: "I have always had a passion for retail – a career I have embarked on since 1972, and I cherish the exposure to sales and trade marketing in the O&L Group over the years, and of course the tremendous amount of experience I have been fortunate enough to receive. It hasn't always been easy – there were some tough times on this journey, but through it all, and as crowned countless times by the Deloitte SADC Survey, I can personally attest to it that the O&L Group is most certainly the 'Best Company To Work For' in Namibia, and the entire SADC Region."

No stranger to the PnP family, the young and vibrant Victoria Moller – former Brand Manager for PnP Namibia, takes over from Botha as the Marketing Manager. Botha: "I am extremely proud of Victoria – or Vicky as she is affectionately known - as she is an ambitious young lady with a lot of energy and drive. I would like to take this opportunity to wish her the best in her endeavors, and I am excited to see her grow within the O&L Group." Moller says she takes with her a wealth of invaluable knowledge and wisdom, on this journey, gained from Botha. Moller: "I cannot put a price tag to the immeasurable tools and teachings I have learned from a man that has paved the way for me. Somewhere Gilbert saw something in me that I didn't even see myself and identified me as his successor hence I was put on a growth plan that helped me fill the gaps and become a worthy successor. I am eternally grateful for what he has done as a coach and mentor and am where I am today because he believed in me. Gilbert has been a mentor, a friend and a fantastic teacher, and passer-on of knowledge in the time that I have known him. I am excited to take on this journey, and wish him everything of the best."

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PnP Managing Director, Norbert Wurm says it is both Botha's passionate contributions professionally, as well as his outstanding personality that makes him one to never forget. Wurm: "Gilbert has delivered an enormous contribution to the business and our people. He always has a joke on his lips, a smile on his face and continuously explores ways of helping, coaching and mentoring others, while always retaining a passion for high standards on execution. I would like to thank Gilbert for his contribution to PnP over the past 7 years, and to the entire O&L Group over the past 21 years. His experience, commitment and loyalty have undoubtedly been of great value to all of us."

Wurm went on to say that Botha will not entirely leave the business just yet, as he will continue to stay on as a coach, mentor and training of PnP staff, while he will also be participating in a number of Special Projects. As such, although he is retiring officially on 30 November, he will remain part of the PnP team in a part-time consultancy role.

Botha: "I would like to thank the Group Executive (GE), my Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and all my colleagues at O&L for a great 21 years of camaraderie, friendship and support. I would like to wish each and every one, all of the best and may you all be blessed going forward."

-Ends

Gilbert Botha attributes his long service of 21 years to retirement in the O&L Group to the culture and work environment of the group.



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Gilbert in participation of the annual The Namibian Pick n Pay Cycle Classic.



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