SwissCham Southern Africa (SCSA)

"South Africa as an Investment Destination"

On behalf of the Chairman, Mr. Georg C. Umbricht, we are very pleased to invite you, your colleagues and friends to a presentation by **Maria Da Conceicao Ramos,** Group Chief Executive of ABSA Group Ltd.

Date:	**Tuesday, 26th January 2010**	
Time:	**11:25 h**	**Registration and Aperitif**
	11:50 h	Speech followed by Luncheon
	14:00 h	End of the Event
Venue:	**Zunfthaus zur Saffran**, Limmatquai 54, 8001 Zurich	

Maria Ramos (born 22nd Feb 1959), is the Group Chief Executive of Absa Group Ltd and a member of the executive committee of Barclays PLC. Prior to joining Absa on 1 March 2009, she was the Group Chief Executive of Transnet Limited, the state-owned freight transport and logistics service provider. This was after a successful stint as Director-General of the National Treasury (formerly the Department of Finance).

Ramos led Transnet through a massive financial, cultural and operational turnaround as well as the transformation of a state-owned enterprise into a modern and agile, focused freight transport and logistics company.

An accomplished academic, who has taught at various institutions, Ramos obtained an Institute of Bankers' Diploma (CAIB) in 1983. She followed this with a BCom from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 1986, a BCom Honours in Economics (also from Wits) in 1987 and an MSc (Economics) from the University of London in 1992.

She is also a recipient of honorary doctorates from the Stellenbosch and Free State Universities.

During her tenure as Director-General of the National Treasury, Ramos played a key role in transforming the Treasury into one of the most effective and efficient state departments. Her contribution has been recognized through numerous awards. These include the *Sunday Times Business Times* Top 100 Business Leaders of the Year (2005), successive rankings by *Fortune (*the influential US-based publication, in its annual feature of the *World's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business*) as well as being named *Businesswoman of the Year* by the SA Businesswomen's Association in 2001. Earlier this year Ramos was honoured as the Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year at the 2009 African Business Awards ceremony in London; and in September, the world-leading magazine, *Fortune*, rated Ramos as the world's 9th most influential businesswomen.

She currently also serves on the executive committees of the Business Trust, International Business Council (IBC), the World Bank Chief Economist Advisory Panel, Business Leadership South Africa and the Banking Association of South Africa. In her presentation she will provide an insight on latest Investment Opportunities in Southern Africa. We kindly look forward to welcoming you to this interesting presentation.

The aperitif is kindly provided by **AWP Holding AG**

Registration: Please register by **Thursday, January 21st, 2010** by returning the form below to the SwissCham Southern Africa (SCSA), P.O. Box 2957, 8022 Zurich, or sending it by fax to 041 620 88 03 or by e-mail to bmoeckli-schneider@chambersservices.ch. The cost of the event is CHF 120.00 for Chamber members and CHF 150.00 for non-members. You will receive a confirmation after registration. Cancellations will be accepted until **Friday, January 22nd, 2010**, 10.00 a.m.; otherwise a full no-show charge applies.

Participants: ....

Company: .... Phone: ....

.... Fax: ....

E-mail: .... Date: ....

Person in Charge: .... Signature: ....

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