



ASSOCIATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEMES

Services to members

Membership of any society is only as valuable as the benefits and services provided by the society.

The focus of ARBS is the delivery of the benefits and services envisaged in the Vision Statement and Strategic Goals. The deliverables from these for members are:

- *A retirement benefits industry governed on the highest principles of delivering best value to all stakeholders*
- *An Association of Retirement Benefits Schemes which is truly representative of the majority of the retirement benefits industry and has the strength of voice and resources to meet its members' needs*
- *A strong relationship with the regulators in which ARBS' opinion is sought and valued in all considerations of regulatory development*
- *An opportunity for trustees and other stakeholders to gain for themselves the knowledge and understanding necessary to equip them to address to varied and complex issues which face them*
- *An environment in which the State schemes are as well managed and well funded as occupational and individual schemes and where there is a level playing ground among all types of schemes*
- *An ARBS Council which is constantly informed of the sentiments among retirement benefits schemes trustees and other stakeholders enabling it to direct its energies appropriately.*

Through membership of ARBS, scheme trustees and sponsors have an opportunity to be represented in forums that shape and influence policy. In this respect, ARBS has been involved in making written and oral presentations to the Government of Kenya Budget team on matters affecting retirement benefits schemes.

Much of the Association's efforts so far have been directed to addressing issues which affect the entire retirement benefits industry, particularly through representations to the Retirement Benefits Authority and the Kenya Revenue Authority. There have been some successes, notably in the development of the RBA Regulations, but there is still much to be done.

While this will continue to be an important activity, the ARBS is now turning more of its attention to supporting members in their dealings with the regulators etc.

ARBS organizes periodical, usually quarterly, seminars and luncheon meetings at which key speakers elaborate on current and topical retirement benefits issues. Through these forums the trustees and sponsors are equipped to execute their responsibilities as trustees. These forums also provide opportunities for members to exchange views and experiences with fellow members.

Member Education Programme

Probably one of the most valuable services ARBS can deliver to its members is to help to equip scheme trustees to discharge their duty of trust. To this end, ARBS is developing an e-learning programme through which trustees can gain a good understanding of their responsibilities. Ultimately this programme will evolve into a trustee certification scheme recognized in the first place by the Retirement Benefits Authority and later perhaps internationally.

Seminars

As part of ARBS' member education programme the Council has scheduled quarterly seminars/workshops during which pertinent issues are addressed. Members are encouraged to suggest issues which they would like to see addressed at these forums.

Strategies

Since the formation of the Association of Retirement Benefits Schemes, the Retirement Benefits Industry in Kenya has been transformed almost beyond recognition.

Following the Annual General meeting in May, 2007, the new Council decided that they needed to establish a formal strategy for ARBS to focus its energies and resources in the areas most appropriate to the achievement of its mandate.

A "brainstorming" session was held on Saturday 21 July 2007 and the Strategic Plan 2007/12 is the product.

The Strategic Plan is not a static document. Rather, it is a live statement encapsulating the Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals of ARBS. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed each year to ensure that it remains relevant to the evolving circumstances of ARBS and the Retirement Benefits Industry as a whole.