

An Attitudinal Analysis of Different Groups of Managers towards Business Ethics in South Africa

Christo Bisschoff¹*, Sam Fullerton² and Christoff Botha¹

¹Potchefstroom Business School, North-West University, South Africa

*²East Michigan University, Michigan, United States of America and Professor at the
Potchefstroom Business School, North-West University, South Africa*

KEYWORDS Managerial Ethics. Factor Analysis. Ethical Disposition. Ethical Comparison. Company Behaviour. Individual Behaviour

ABSTRACT This study determines the ethical profiles and dispositions of three groups of managers in South Africa. These groups consisted of (1) Managers from a specific company active in the agricultural sector in South Africa; (2) A collection of managers from diverse industries in South Africa; and (3) A group consisting of potential managers. The objectives are to measure the ethical views of the groups, to identify ethical discrepancies that exist between the different respondent groups, and to determine the statistical significance of those differences. Individual- as well as company ethical behaviour are tested amongst of 754 participating respondents regarding individual and ethical ethics while the groups do not differ significantly from each other on individual ethical behaviour. However, regarding company ethics, the groups differ more in their views of which actions are acceptable and which are not.