

# Impact funds to help growth

By **EVAN PICKWORTH**

IMPACT investing is becoming one of the hottest tickets in the markets as socially responsible investment factors start playing an increasingly important role in fund managers' and the government's investment strategies.

While the industry remains small and the challenge is for managers to make competitive returns, managers are starting to gain traction.

A forerunner in this market is independent, black-owned boutique asset manager Mergence, which has R12-billion in assets under management.

The portfolio manager of the Mergence impact funds, Mark van Wyk, said while the market is still in its infancy, the role of these funds will become more critical.

The impact funds have been designed in line with South Africa's infrastructural and growth needs.

— *BDLive*