

## Report of the independent auditors

### To the members of Standard Bank Group Limited

We have audited the annual financial statements and group annual financial statements of Standard Bank Group Limited set out on pages 94 to 202 for the year ended 31 December 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.



KPMG Inc.  
Registered Accountants and Auditors

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the company and of the group at 31 December 2005, and the results of their operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and in the manner required by the Companies Act of South Africa.



PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.  
Registered Accountants and Auditors

Johannesburg  
8 March 2006