



MEDIA RELEASE

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MTC responds on Sam Nujoma Stadium media reports

WINDHOEK, 3 May 2010 –

The Namibian media space has been recently been awash with reports regarding MTC branding at the Sam Nujoma Stadium in Katutura and the fact that the NFA Cup matches cannot take place there. Some of the key allegations made are:

1. That MTC prevents its competitor from staging matches at the stadium,
2. That the NFA was not aware of the contractual arrangements between the City of Windhoek and MTC,
3. That MTC is destroying Namibian football.

May we respond as follows to each of the above:

1. Both the NFA and the sponsor of the Cup have never approached MTC to discuss any matter related MTC's permanent branding at the stadium. To do so through public media will unfortunately not resolve anything and to be arrogant about these issues will further worsen the situation. Maybe they are waiting for lives to be lost before they address the issues with the organisations concerned. The NFA bosses know where the MTC head office is when they need money but apparently suddenly have forgotten the existence of the Corner of Mose Tjitendero and Ndadi streets in Olympia, Windhoek, Namibia.

The agreement with the City does not prevent anyone from using the stadium. What is prohibited is to cover the permanent branding but **on-field branding is available**.

2. History and collective memory will assist on the second score. During the existence of the now defunct Namibia Football Consortium (NFC), the City of Windhoek offered the NFC the first right of refusal with regard to branding at the Sam Nujoma Stadium. I was present and very conscious throughout all those deliberations, initially on behalf of FNB Namibia and subsequently on MTC's behalf. MTC made a firm financial offer with conditions debated and accepted but the City Council. Should the NFA bosses claim

selective amnesia on that score then the affairs of our football are in dangerous hands for they might event forgot who really drove the funding transformation of football in Namibia.

3. MTC has singlehandedly carried Namibian football at the most critical of moments. To claim that it is our intention to damage a game we have helped evolve is tantamount to sabotage. We are investing N\$4.7 million during the 2009/10 season in the NFA's premier property, the Premier League. Next year that figure will rise by another 10%. It is also a fact the league functions with no financial support from the NFA and for the NFA Secretary General and fellow football bosses to disregard our investment in football with be potentially damaging to that relationship.

We also need to underscore that it is a tragedy of immense proportions when the NFA bosses choose to pick the wrong fight, through the wrong public platforms, on behalf of a sponsor who might soon be beating a hasty retreat from the Namibian soil in the not-so-distant future. This would mean that their Cup will again undergo another re-christening as it has happened last year. MTC is here to stay and invest in the *long term* growth of Namibian sport as our track record has ably demonstrated.

The Road ahead:

1. MTC is ready to discuss any solution that is in national interest but it will only do so without unduly prejudicing its full rights. If the NFA and its sponsor are willing and able to locate our physical address in Olympia, we shall happily engage them in the interest of our 66% shareholder, which are the Namibian people through their national government.
2. We are considering all our options given that the NFA seems unhappy with our investment in Namibian football. The comments of its Secretary General on the NBC Otjijherero service on Friday evening, 30 April 2010 and all previous comments are very instructive in this regard. We shall be dutibound to review all matters related to the partnership arrangements between the NFA (through the Premier League) and MTC.

End....

About MTC: MTC (Mobile Telecommunications Limited) was established in 1995 as a joint venture between Namibia Post and Telecommunications Holdings (NPTH), Telia and Swedfund. During May 2004, NPTH concluded a deal that saw it hold 100 per cent of the shares in MTC by acquiring the 49 per cent held by Telia Overseas AB and Swedfund International AB. NPTH is 100 per cent owned by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. On 1 September 2006 the sale of 34% of MTC shares to Portugal Telecom (PT) was concluded with the management contract also ceded to PT. www.mtc.com.na

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