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## MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 11 April 2019  
To: All members of the media

### **AIR NAMIBIA (PTY) LTD INTERIM LEADERSHIP UPDATE AND CLARIFICATION**

Adv Sauls-Deckenbrock, Air Namibia Board of Directors Chairperson announced, “We realise that there is steady interest in the future of the national airline. And rightly so, as Air Namibia is one of Namibia’s once-beloved jewels that we would all love to see sparkling again as a symbol of our national pride. Following recent announcements of leadership changes and interim arrangements, the Board of Directors has received numerous queries, and would like to clarify the status quo and immediate next steps, as follows:

In forging a fresh new path for the future so as to realise our vision of restoring confidence in the airline, the newly appointed board is unequivocal that what qualified as “*business-as-usual*” for the past 20 years cannot continue and that robust short-and long-term changes are required. The board has instituted new interim leadership from within the company and has had meaningful and frank engagements with the shareholder as part of the important steps to bring the airline to a steady state.

The board has appointed Mr Xavier Masule as the Interim CEO in charge of and focussing on the day-to-day business. Mr Masule holds a B. Comm (Accounting) and an MBA degree. In addition to his qualifications, Mr Masule is a seasoned professional with over 19 years of aviation industry experience and is certified and recognized by IATA as an Aviation Management Professional.

In line with accepted aviation industry practice, the board has identified a person separate from the Interim CEO, to serve as the airline’s statutory Senior Accountable Manager (“SAM”), principally responsible for overall aviation regulatory compliance and activities. The Civil Aviation Regulations that require a SAM be appointed do not require the SAM to be the CEO. The board has identified Ms Ingrid Cupido, who is a seasoned legal professional in the

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Board of Directors: Adv. Deidre Sauls- Deckenbrock (Chairperson), Ms. Nangula Kauluma (Vice-Chairperson), Ms. Heritha Muyoba, Mr. Willy Mertens, Mr. Escher Luanda, Capt. Alois Nyandoro

aviation sector, as the suitable person for accreditation for this purpose by the Namibian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA). The board has in accordance with due process, engaged with and duly informed the Namibian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) of its nominee for accreditation. The process is following its ordinary course.

We have also appointed Mr Wimpie van Vuuren as the Acting General Manager: Commercial Services. Mr Van Vuuren has more than 26 years of commercial experience in the aviation industry both locally and internationally, and previously successfully ran the Air Namibia Frankfurt station.

The board recognizes that safety, stability and business continuity are non-negotiable, and are among the top drivers of the work currently under way to lay the foundations for Air Namibia's robust turnaround. Therefore, these interim arrangements have been made in order to allow incumbent post holders to focus on fixing the core operations in their respective posts, as well as to enable management Exco members to prioritise their efforts to address and improve performance in critical performance areas.

The forward-looking strategy for the business, once finalised, as well as the structure and capability that will deliver the strategy, will inform the final permanent management structure for the airline."

ENDS

**ISSUED BY:** Air Namibia Board of Directors

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