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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 04 February 2020
To: All members of the media

AIR NAMIBIA SUSPENDS WINDHOEK – LUANDA ROUTE

Air Namibia hereby wishes to inform the flying public and esteemed stakeholders that the national airline of the Republic of Namibia will suspend its Windhoek – Luanda route effective Sunday, 09 February 2020.

Air Namibia initially commenced operations of Windhoek – Luanda during the year 1992, shortly after independence. The operation was initially 2 flights per week, through the years the numbers steadily went up to 7 flights per week by 2014/15. The Windhoek – Luanda route was Air Namibia's most profitable route from 1998 - 2015.

The situation changed when the Angolan economy weakened and passenger demand for air travel declined. To adapt to these economic changes, from 2016/17 Air Namibia reduced the number of flights from 7 to 6 per week, then to 5 and by 2018/19 the number of flights was reduced to 4 per week. This route was suspended from June to October 2019 due to viability reasons; services were re-instated during October 2019 to January 2020 (high season).

Mr Xavier Masule, Air Namibia's Interim CEO said: *"While recognising that this was in the past Air Namibia's most profitable route, the sad reality we face today is different. The route is loss making to a level which is not sustainable, and there are no prospects of the situation changing in the foreseeable future."*

Passengers booked on affected flights will be re-protected and accommodated on flights operated by TAAG Angolan Airlines, and their travel itineraries will not be negatively affected.

The mandate of Air Namibia is to be a major contributor towards the attraction and

Board of Directors: Mr. Escher Luanda (Chairperson), Ms. Heritha Muyoba, Mr. Willy Mertens, Capt. Alois Nyandoro

promotion of tourism to Namibia by providing air transport between the Land of the Brave and rest of the world, as well as operating flights within the boundaries of Namibia.

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ISSUED BY: **Air Namibia's Corporate Communications Unit**

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