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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
CORPORATE FINANCE

Group Secretariat

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PO Box 7735 Johannesburg 2000

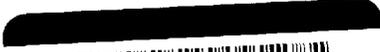
Tel 011 350 4000
Fax 011 350 4928
Swift Address: ABSA ZA JJ
http://www.absa.co.za

Groep Sekretariaat

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Mainstraat 170 Johannesburg 2001
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11 January 2005



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SUPPL

Office of International Corporate Finance
Division of Corporate Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington DC 20549-0302
USA

FAX: 09 1 202 942 9624

Dear Sir/Madam

**ABSA GROUP LIMITED: SENS ANNOUNCEMENT: FURTHER CAUTIONARY RE
PROPOSED BARCLAYS / ABSA TRANSACTION**

Attached please find a copy of a further Cautionary Announcement by Absa Group Limited which was released today regarding the proposed Barclays / Absa transaction.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address or telephone number.

Yours faithfully

W R SOMERVILLE
GROUP COMPANY SECRETARY

PROCESSED

JAN 21 2005

THOMSON
FINANCIAL

ABSA Group Limited/Groep Beperk, Reg No 1986/003934/06

Directors/Direkteure: DC Cronjé (Chairman/Voorsitter) DC Brink (Deputy Chairman/Adjunk-voorsitter) *SF Booysen (Group Chief Executive/Groep Uitvoerende Hoof)
LN Angel DC Arnold L Boyd BP Connellan AS du Plessis *FJ du Toit G Griffin LN Jonker P du P Kruger LW Maasdorp PT Moisepe TMG Sexwale
FA Sonn PEI Swartz T van Wyk J van Zyl (08/2004)

*Executive Directors/Uitvoerende Direkteure

Secretary/Sekretaris: WR Somerville



Absa Group Limited
 (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
 (Registration number 1986/003934/06)
 JSE code: ASA Issuer code: AMAGB
 ISIN: ZAE000013389
 ("Absa")

Renewal of cautionary announcement

Shareholders are referred to the cautionary announcements released on SENS on 23 September 2004, 4 November 2004 and 22 November 2004 regarding the discussions of a possible acquisition of a majority stake in Absa by Barclays.

Discussions with Barclays are progressing. Given the complexities relating to a possible transaction it was considered appropriate on 1 December 2004 for Barclays to submit a formal application in terms of section 37 of the Banks Act to the Registrar of Banks in which the permission of the Minister of Finance (through the Registrar of Banks) is being sought for Barclays to acquire a majority stake in Absa. Timing of the approval process by the regulatory authorities is not known.

Shareholders are advised to continue exercising caution when dealing in Absa securities until a further announcement is made.

Johannesburg
 11 January 2005

Financial advisors



Merrill Lynch
 Global Markets & Investment Banking Group
 Merrill Lynch International
 Registered in England
 Registration number 2312079
 Regulated in the United Kingdom
 by The Financial Services Authority



Corporate & Merchant Bank
 Corporate Finance
 ABSA Bank Limited, Reg No
 1986/004794/06

Legal advisors

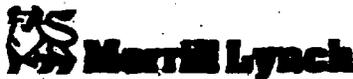


WEBBER WENTZEL BOWENS

International legal advisors



Lead sponsor



Global Markets & Investment Banking Group
 Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd
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 Registered Sponsor and Member of the
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