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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE FINANCE

Group Secretariat

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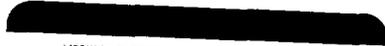
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25 October 2005



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Division of Corporate Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
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Washington DC 205 49-0302
USA

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FILE REFERENCE NO.
082-04569

Dear Sir/Madam

SUPPL

ABSA GROUP LIMITED: SENS ANNOUNCEMENT: TRADING UPDATE

Attached please find a copy of a Trading Statement by Absa Group Limited as published on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange's News Service (SENS) on Monday, 24 October 2005.

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

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Authorised Financial Services Provider/Gemagtigde Finansiële diensteverskaffer

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 DE Baloyi L Boyd *D Bruynseels (British/Brits) BP Connellan AS du Plessis G Griffin LN Jonker N Kheraj (British/Brits)
P du P Kruger LW Maasdorp DL Roberts (British/Brits) *JH Schindehütte TMG Sexwale FA Sonn PEI Swartz *LL von Zeuner (07/2005)

*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 : ZAE 000013389)

("Absa" or "the Group")

Trading statement

In terms of the Listings Requirements of the JSE Limited ("the JSE Listing Requirements") a listed company is required to publish a trading statement as soon as it becomes apparent that the financial results for the next period to be reported on are expected, with a reasonable degree of certainty, to differ by at least 20% from those of the previous corresponding period.

The continued low interest rates and favourable retail trading environment have resulted in an improvement in the operating performance of the retail operations and a reduction in credit impairment levels of the Group. In addition, the strong performance of equity markets has contributed positively to the results of the Group.

Shareholders are accordingly advised that the growth in headline earnings per share and earnings per share of the Group for the six months ended 30 September 2005 versus the comparable period in 2004 is expected to be slightly in excess of twenty percent.

The forecast has not been reviewed or reported on by Absa's auditors. The Group's results for the six months ended 30 September 2005 will be released on 21 November 2005.

By order of the board

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Grant Lewis 011 350-5386

Issued by:

Willie Roux

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