



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

DATE: Wednesday, June 29, 2011

### **MISA Challenges Trustco's Principle of Equitable Treatment**

Last week the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) aggressively criticized Trustco, the owner of the Informanté Newspaper, ostensibly in defense of Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media.

It is not the policy of Trustco to publicize either its actions or the outcome of disciplinary process against employees. The disciplinary action against the two suspended employees will in itself guide the action of Trustco after the final verdict is known.

The Informanté Editor, Nghidipohamba Nangolo, says: *"I, as final gatekeeper, should have noted the actions by Ms. Brigitte Weidlich. As sub-editor, Ms. Elizabeth Mule, has similar responsibility in this regard. When the matter came to my attention, I took responsibility for my oversight. The two journalists however denied responsibility hence disciplinary action will follow in terms of company policy."*

Quinton Van Rooyen, the Group Managing Director of Trustco, says: *"MISA has an important role to fulfill in the Southern Africa media milieu. It is a pity that MISA has condoned the journalists' actions before the disciplinary process has been finalized by accusing the Informanté and Trustco of all sorts of (mis)conduct. Trustco notes that Namibia has in 2010, independently, been ranked the most 'press free country in Africa'. This is not a result of any actions taken by MISA, but rather as a result of Namibians' respect for its own*

*Constitution. It would seem, in the circumstances, that MISA therefore has very little to do on a day to day basis in Namibia. MISA in Namibia should rather enlighten the public on how many employment opportunities it has created since its inception, what it has published to educate the public in terms of press freedom, what its stance is on plagiarism by journalists and whether its office rent is in arrears or not.”*

**END**

SOURCE: Trustco Group Holdings

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