



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **SABC SPORT NOT TO BROADCAST SAO TOME VS BAFANA BAFANA AFCON QUALIFIER RETURN LEG ON TV**

**Johannesburg – Monday 16, November 2020** - [SABC Sport](#) is disappointed that will not be broadcasting the Bafana Bafana's AFCON qualifier return leg against Sao Tome e Principe on the SABC TV channels. The match scheduled to kick off this afternoon at 15h00, will, however, be transmitted live on the SABC Radio channels.

The South African senior men football team, Bafana Bafana, defeated Sao Tome e Principe 2–0 in the first leg played at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban, this past Friday. Their 6 points maintain Bafana Bafana in 2nd position behind Ghana, who leads Group C with 9 points after all the teams have played their three (3) matches. The group also includes Sudan who Bafana Bafana will play in March 2021.

This afternoon's return leg for the 2021 Cameroon African Cup of Nations qualifier kicks off at 15h00, at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth. The match is being hosted in South Africa, after CAF requested that SAFA assists with hosting the match in SA, due to logistical challenges that Sao Tome would face, in organising the return leg within a short turnaround time.

The SABC and SAFA entered into a four (4) year broadcast rights deal in 2019, for all SA National teams' matches played locally, inclusive of the 2021 AFCON qualifiers. As part of this agreement, SAFA approached the SABC to be the host broadcaster for this game, which we agreed to do. Although this match is to be played in Port Elizabeth, it is still classified as the away match for Bafana Bafana.

At the last minute, CAF chose not to accept the position agreed to between SAFA and the SABC and insisted on making their own production arrangements and charging the SABC an exorbitant rights fee to carry this game instead. As this match carries much significance for the 2021 AFCON tournament, SABC made various counter offers, which included a revised rights fee, which was declined by CAF.

SABC Sport GM, Gary Rathbone commented that "It is unfortunate that despite SABC Sport's efforts to bring the national team's match to all South Africans, our efforts have not yielded positive results in our negotiations with CAF. We have however managed to acquire the radio broadcast rights for this match, so that at least all South Africans will be able to follow the game live in their own language, and so avoid a total blackout on a match played right on our doorstep. Our current financial position means that we cannot acquire sports rights at any cost, and we need to be mindful of expenditure in relation to market value and return on investment.

Audiences will be able to tune into the SABC Radio station of their language choice this afternoon for the live broadcast of the match from 15h00.

[SABC Sport](#) will continue to explore all avenues in order to showcase live sports of national importance to the public.

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**'SABC SPORT – FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME'**

**END**

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