



BERMUDA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

P O Box HM 745

Hamilton HM CX

Tel: 441-295-2199 Fax: 441-295-0773 www.bermudafa.com

PRESS STATEMENT

DATE: January 30, 2010

TO: All Media
President / Secretary, All Clubs

RE: **Haiti Relief Fundraising**

By now you are well aware of the devastating outcomes that have inflicted great pain and suffering on our brothers and sisters, friends and associates on the Caribbean Island of Haiti. The international media coverage has shown heart-wrenching images that have become so hard to bear. The personal stories of tragedy are unlike anything we have seen and wish never to see again. The stories of survival and the uphill battle facing the Haitian population is a call for the rest of the World to look beyond the safety of our personal comforts and reach out to those who need our help the most!

This statement is a direct appeal to our entire Bermuda football family because our colleagues in the Haitian Football Federation did not escape this tragedy. At least thirty (30) members of the football family in Haiti comprising Executive members, office staff, administrators, players, coaches, referees were crushed when their headquarters collapse on top of them during the earthquake. All that remains is a slab of concrete which according to the latest reports still contains the bodies of at least twenty (20) more football persons yet to be accounted for and who still remain buried in the collapsed building.

We can't imagine what the remaining members from the football family in Haiti must be going through at this time. How do they pick up the pieces of their shattered lives? How do they address the challenges of managing and administering football when their very existence has been "wiped out"!

While we don't have the answers, we can do something to let them know that they are not alone and that their colleagues in Bermuda care about what has happened to them.

In this regard, we are calling on the entire football family of Bermuda including our clubs, players, coaches, referees, administrators, fans and supporters as well as the community at large to make donations to the Bermuda Football Association "Haiti Relief Fund" in aid of providing financial support to the Haitian Football Federation. The



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international football family has asked all member Associations around the World to do any and all that it can to help our colleagues in Haiti.

We have opened a Haiti Relief Fund Account #010-003051-006 at the Bank of Bermuda HSBC whereby funds can be deposited toward this worthy effort. Donations may also be delivered to the Bermuda Football Association headquarters which will be deposited in the Bank Account. Additionally, the upcoming Clyde Best Invitational Youth Tournament, which takes place between February 12th - 14th at the National Sports Centre is free admission. We are asking everyone to attend these matches and also make a donation to this relief effort. The aim of the Association is to raise as much funds as we can up to Friday, February 19th at which time the sum total of all funds raised will be tallied and presented to the relevant Haitian Football Federation authorities or our regional governing body on their behalf during the Caribbean Football Union Congress, which take place in Port of Spain Trinidad on Saturday, February 27th.

If there is ever a time that a country and its people are in need of our love and compassion then that country is Haiti and the time is now. Please reach out to everyone you know and ask them to donate whatever they can, no matter how much or how little, every penny and every dollar will make a huge difference to a Federation that as of this moment has nothing!

George Santayana said “The difficult is that which can be done immediately. The impossible is that which takes a little longer!”

In Haiti’s time of difficulty we must act immediately. This catastrophe might seem an impossible task which we all accept will take much longer to restore Haiti back to some sense of stability. However, this impossible task must start with us now!

May those who have lost their lives in this awful tragedy, rest in peace!

Clyde & Derek will now talk about the Clyde Best Tournament.