



MEDIA RELEASE

FOOTBALL - AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS THE APPEAL FILED BY THE NAMIBIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IS DISMISSED BY THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

Lausanne, 10 January 2012 – The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has rendered its decision in the arbitration between the Namibia Football Association and the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF): the CAS has dismissed the appeal of the Namibia FA and has confirmed the decision of the CAF Appeal Board dated 24 November 2011.

This arbitration is the sequel of a dispute involving CAF, the Namibia FA, the FA of Burkina Faso and the player Hervé Zengue. Hervé Zengue was born in Cameroon and took a residency in Burkina Faso in 1994; he got a Burkinabé nationality certificate on 14 September 2006. On 25 March 2011, the player received a five-year passport from Burkina Faso.

On 26 March 2011 and on 4 June 2011, Namibia and Burkina Faso played each other in the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) qualification stages. Burkina Faso won both matches and was qualified for the final stage of the CAN starting on 21 January 2012. Before the second match Namibia-Burkina Faso, the Namibia FA put forward that the player Hervé Zengue was ineligible to participate in that match and filed a protest.

On 28 October 2011, the Bureau of the Africa Cup of Nations Committee rejected the protest of the Namibia FA regarding the ineligibility of the player Hervé Zengue on the grounds that the protest letter failed to comply with Article 37.1 of the Regulations of the CAN 2012. The Namibia FA filed an appeal to the CAF Appeal Board which was heard on 15 November 2011. On 24 November 2011, the CAF Appeal Board rendered its decision which concluded:

"To declare invalid the protest submitted by the Namibia Football Association concerning the non-respect of the requirements stipulated by Article 37 of the 2012 CAN Regulations."

The Namibia FA filed its appeal at the CAS on 6 December 2011. The CAS conducted an expedited procedure and heard the parties at a hearing on 6 January 2012.

The final award with reasons will be issued by the CAS in a few weeks.

For further information related to the CAS activity and procedures in general, please contact either Mr Matthieu Reeb, CAS Secretary General, Château de Béthusy, Avenue de Beaumont 2, 1012 Lausanne, Switzerland. Tel: (41 21) 613 50 00; fax: (41 21) 613 50 01, or consult the CAS website: www.tas-cas.org