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MTC WeRaceTogether RAISED OVER N\$1.4 MILLION

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**04 August 2022 – Windhoek** - MTC and partners have today announced that through the WeRaceTogether initiative, an amount of over 1.4 million was raised. In a statement released on Thursday (04 August 2022), the proceeds will be split between two community programs targeting Sustainable Food Security and SME Empowerment.

The sustainable food security project is set to support at least 10 different community garden projects across the country, for the benefit of the communities. The purpose of the support is to have a lasting impact on the communities through helping them execute a planned community garden, assisting an already existing garden with necessary support they may need, to increase productivity.

“It is important to note that the community garden projects need to have a strong element of sustainability, has to benefit the community, and has to have an impact on the community in order to qualify for this aid. While we may be looking more at group-based projects, it is a fact that there may be individually run or established gardens that may need assistance and can benefit the community, through either skills transfer and employment or access to affordable food.

Food Security is a need in many areas of the country. Food handout programmes are not sustainable as it creates a dependency syndrome. Growing food for consumption and profit, on the other hand is a more sustainable and a long-term option to Food Security. This project will hence address sustainable Food Security to create self-sustaining communities.” – John Ekongo, MTC Corporate Affairs Manager.

Ekongo explained that the second project is the SME youth empowerment and is targeted to support at least 70 vocational trained graduates by procuring and providing them with start-up equipment grants. The aim to grow sustainable SME youth employment and make an impact on the Namibian youth across the country.

“With the youth unemployment rate standing at approximately 40%, the youth, specifically those in the semi-skilled industry have increased due to the halt of many industrial activities which provided jobs for them. As a result, they have been left out of the economy. Furthermore,

previously disadvantaged vocational trained youth are even set back way behind the queue for opportunities.” – Ekongo.

A public call for application will be put out for deserving individuals to apply for this support.

Ekongo concluded by thanking all stakeholders: “We thank all corporates that supported the MTC WeRaceTogether initiative. Furthermore, our appreciation goes to all the personalities who made sure that together we are able to make an impact full change in our society.”

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