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NEWS RELEASE:

ISSUED BY: ACORN GROUP OF COMPANIES
BRAND: TABARD INSECT REPELLENTS
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TABARD STOPS MOSQUITOES BUGGING TEAM SOUTH AFRICA

When members and officials of Team South Africa leave for Brazil to participate in the 2016 Rio Olympics, they will be taking off with the knowledge that in response to widely publicised concerns over contracting the Zika virus, every effort is being made to prevent them being bothered and bitten by the mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

That's because in addition to extensive precautions initiated by Team SA's management and medical advisors, each and every member of our contingent is being provided with a supply of Tabard insect repellents, courtesy of Acorn Group, manufacturers of this well known South African brand.

The company has donated sufficient units of Tabard Insect Repellents to ensure every member of Team SA is provided with Tabard Sticks and Lotions for personal use, as well as their Tabard Fabric Guard product that can be sprayed on clothing and equipment to ward off mosquitoes.

Zika is predominantly acquired through mosquito bites, mainly from the *Aedes Aegypti* genus. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. Effects of the Zika outbreak in Brazil have been reported frequently across all forms of news media, with several prominent sportsmen and women citing concerns over contracting Zika for withdrawing from the Games.

There is currently no vaccine for the virus, and although symptoms are usually mild with no specific treatment required, Zika has been linked to serious birth defects in babies and in isolated cases, serious health problems in adults as well. Pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant soon are most at risk of complications. Despite public health officials stating the risk of contracting Zika is low since it will be winter in Brazil, a time when mosquitoes are less active, there are important precautions that should be taken by everyone attending the Games.

Using a good insect repellent and applying it properly would in most cases be the first line of defence against Zika. The United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO) as well as other specialist organisations have recommended using insect repellents containing DEET, IR3535 or icaridin, according to the product label instructions. Further precautions include wearing clothes that cover as much of the body as possible, using physical barriers such as window screens or closing doors and windows, and sleeping under mosquito nets.

Made in South Africa under strict conditions approved by the Medicines Control Council, Tabard's line of personal insect repellents contain DEET, which has over many years proved to be one of the most effective and safest active ingredients for preventing mosquito bites. In addition to its original Tabard Stick, Aerosol and Lotion, which provide personal protection for up to 8 hours, the brand recently added Tabard Fabric Guard to its range. Sprayed on clothing and equipment rather than on skin, this innovative new product offers months of protection, wash after wash.

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Tabard is one of Africa's most trusted insect repellent brands, introduced here during the 1960's and acquired by Acorn Group nearly 20 years ago. Spokesperson and managing director Gail Downing says the company supports many important causes and initiatives, but this marks the first occasion the brand has become involved with South Africa's sports community at the highest level. "We are immensely proud that our contribution towards the wellbeing of Team South Africa has been accepted by SASCOC and are thoroughly looking forward to watching our athletes achieve spectacular results in Rio" she said.

SASCOC CEO, Tubby Reddy welcomed the sponsorship and said, "We are very excited at the prospect of having Tabard as a partner for the Games in Rio. Tabard is one of the country's best known and most trusted insect repellent products and we are fortunate that they will be providing extra security for the wellness and health of our athletes. With Tabard on our side, our athletes and officials can be assured that they will not only be getting a peaceful night's sleep, but will also be fully protected during the day when they engage in their events".

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