

Remarks by Coen Teulings, Chairman of Merifin Capital, on the occasion of the Olympic Order of the International Olympic Commission (“IOC”) bestowed upon him at the IOC Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 25-27 November 2012.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to support the Olympic Youth Development Centre (“OYDC”) in Lusaka, Zambia, as it is a first and pilot project for IOC’s Olympic Mission to also include education, healthcare and life attitude in sport and invite children and young athletes to participate. The success of this newly minted Olympic Mission is demonstrated by thousands of children from the townships in Lusaka waiting at the gate every day to get inside. I would like to congratulate OYDC with 2 newly built facilities, an olympic size pool and the lodge which should be operational shortly.

We support a very first programme of 5 different Olympic sports as a partnership between the Zambian executive team and ourselves (the Zambian team consisting of Mrs. Miriam Moyo, President NOC Zambia, OYDC Director Mr. Clement Chileshe and Mr. Patrick Chamunda, Member of the IOC). I am happy to mention that the first programme meanwhile has been followed by others. These sports activities include medical care (eyes, ears and dental) as well as education programmes.

For our programme there is a plan, there is a budget and there are regular progress reports for which we visit Lusaka twice a year. Our agreed adagium is “no progress, no money”. And in 5 years’ time OYDC Lusaka should stand on its own feet and generate sufficient income to run its operation and not expect any more money support from outside.

It should indeed be appropriate to celebrate OYDC’s success today but I have to caution it is early days yet. In order to become a successful centre which is sustainable in the long term, OYDC needs active support from all quarters: the Zambian authorities, the African sports world, civil society, but also and in particular from the International Sports Federations and various departments of the IOC which must adopt OYDC as their baby.

A long term successful OYDC in Lusaka should be a monument to the IOC’s strategic goals and a pride for Zambia and the region.

Thank you.