

## Accident in Namibia March 2007

**London, 26 June 2008.** Raleigh International said today that the death of Sally Witcomb in Namibia in March 2007 was a tragic accident, which is still subject to an investigation in Namibia. Once all of the necessary information is available there will be inquests in both Namibia and in the UK at which a finding of fact will be made by the Coroner. The Coroner's court is the appropriate forum in which this matter should be examined. Raleigh International continues to provide all necessary assistance to the Coroner and will respect that forum.

Raleigh International Chief Executive Stacey Adams commented, "Raleigh's safety standards are recognised by the industry as gold standard. We were asked by the Year Out Group to represent them to help formulate the new British Standard BS8848, which is the specification for the provision of visits, field work, expeditions and adventurous activities outside the United Kingdom: the standard is currently being reviewed."

Raleigh International conducts rigorous risk assessments and checks of all the activities, sites and the contractors employed on our behalf. The prime focus is on safety and the prevention of accidents. However in spite of these procedures and a good safety record, regrettably sometimes accidents still happen.

Stacey Adams commented, "Since unforeseen circumstances arise, we have robust management, casualty evacuation and emergency plans for every project site, which cover eventualities from natural disasters and political instability to individual incidents. We have medics on all expeditions and repatriation arrangements in place to ensure medical evacuations occur as swiftly as possible."

It is understood that delays in the UK inquiry process have been caused by ongoing investigations by the Namibian authorities.

Stacey Adams concluded, "Since this matter is subject to the constraints that apply to any Coroner's Inquiry, Raleigh is unable to comment on the circumstances of the accident or speculate on the likely outcome of the inquest, other than to express deep sorrow at this tragic accident which involved a typically enthusiastic volunteer working with her colleagues under challenging conditions."

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