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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Following disciplinary proceedings which were concluded on 4 March 2010, the NRF received the report of the Chairperson of the hearing today (12 March 2010). The Chairperson found Prof Charles to be not guilty on all charges. However, the NRF executive is studying the content of the report with a view to dealing with any issues requiring further attention.

It must be noted that the NRF had initiated this process with an intention of correcting perceived transgressions in the management and governance processes within SAAO. The NRF believes that the issues that gave rise to these proceedings may still exist and that they still require be dealt with. Be that as it may, the NRF accepts the verdict of the independent chair, and will therefore not contest its final conclusion.

The NRF plans to initiate a process of repairing relationships such that the operation of the SAAO and SALT can return to normality in the shortest possible time. Prof Phil Charles is hereby reinstated to his normal position as director of the SAAO with immediate effect.

The NRF Corporate Executive wish to assure the SA community, SAAO staff and all stakeholders that they will continue to manage the National Facilities using sound management and governance principles. In addition, the NRF will ensure that the SAAO as an organisation is sustainable over the long -term.

### **Issued by and on behalf of the NRF**

PATRICK B THOMPSON  
GROUP EXECUTIVE: HR & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS  
(Signature reproduced electronically on request)

12 March 2010