

**EMBARGOED – Saturday 18 April 2009**

## **Standard Bank proves a hit with cricketers**

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Standard Bank is launching this year's sponsorship of the Isle Of Man Cricket Association (IOMCA) with a nod towards its roots.

James Stokoe, Senior Manager, Institutional Banking, said: "We are a big supporter of cricket not only in the Isle of Man, but also in South Africa. It's a game which demands the best of its players both as individuals and as part of a team, an ethos that is shared by Standard Bank. We are extremely pleased to announce our support of the IOMCA on the day that our parent country is hosting the Indian Premier League."

Standard Bank's support will help the IOMCA to run the island's senior leagues and cups, which involve 12 clubs and around 700 registered players. IOMCA Chairman Barry Smith said that Standard Bank's support was a significant part of the association's long-term aim to improve its standing with the International Cricket Council.

"We want to improve our ICC status from Affiliate to Associate, and to do that we need the assistance of many partners and Standard Bank's support is a significant help," he said. "When the Isle of Man becomes an ICC Associate there will be a huge increase in funding available for the development of the game."

"We are extremely grateful for Standard Bank's enthusiastic support. They have been associated with us for many years and they are great friends of cricket. Their sponsorship of the domestic leagues is vital for the growth and development of the game."

Mr Smith is in his native South Africa at the moment and is hoping to see some of the 59 Indian Premier League matches which are being played between today and the final on May 24.

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**NOTES TO EDITOR**

Photo: (left to right) Barry Smith, Chairman of IOMCA, and James Stokoe, Senior Manager, Institutional Banking at Standard Bank

For more information, and to arrange interviews, please call Alex Mallinson on 01534 735253, or email [alex@directinput.ie](mailto:alex@directinput.ie)

**Standard Bank**

Standard Bank is a leading African banking group focused on emerging markets globally. It has been a mainstay of South Africa's financial system for over 145 years, and now spans 17 countries across the African continent. Its international expansion has taken it to 19 countries outside Africa including Brazil, Russia and China. The bank's headquarters are in Johannesburg and it is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

The Standard Bank Offshore Group has offices in Jersey, Isle of Man and Mauritius and provides a range of services for private and corporate clients including banking, wealth management, trust and company administration, asset management, investment services and fund administration.

**Key facts and figures**

- Standard Bank Group assets of approximately US\$162 billion (December 2008)
- Market Capitalisation of approximately US\$14 billion (December 2008)
- Present in 36 countries around the world
- Employs more than 50,000 people world-wide (including Liberty)

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