

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 July 2010

Civil Aviation Authority and SATAWU are meeting to try to break deadlock

In an attempt to end the current strike by employees and lock-out by management, the leadership of the SA Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as well as that of SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) are set to meet today, Tuesday, 13 July 2010 at 16:30.

The CAA is keen to end the strike as soon as possible and is happy that the union has also acknowledged the importance of dialogue. Despite believing that its offer at the time of the deadlock was reasonable, management will go into the scheduled meeting with an open mind and will carefully review any reasonable proposal put forward by labour.

The agreement to meet also comes as a welcome relief following the initial refusal by the union to the idea of a meeting, which was earmarked to address the impasse as well as picketing rules which are now being blatantly disregarded by the picketing employees. Amongst others, management is bothered by picketers who have now resorted to singing and blowing *vuvuzelas* outside of the demarcated areas. The use of the *vuvuzelas* not only violates the rights of adjacent enterprises within the business park but also has the potential to interfere with the SACAA's ability to conduct examinations on site under conditions that are conducive to obtaining a pass.

In the interest of the neighbouring business enterprises and our clients writing exams, the SACAA will be obliged to take appropriate steps which will include seeking legal relief to ensure that the strike action does not affect innocent parties.

Regardless, after reviewing yesterday's impact of the strike on its provision of services, the SACAA is happy to announce that it has managed to provide services to all stakeholders as planned. For instance, all applications received through walk-in customers have been processed and completed on the day. As such there are no backlogs in any of the SACAA's direct customer service areas. In addition all scheduled examinations have been successfully conducted.

Ends

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