



MEDIA STATEMENT

23 December 2013

British Airways accident injures four officials at OR Tambo

Midrand. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) confirms that a British Airways flight outbound to Heathrow International airport from OR Tambo International airport had an accident on Sunday evening just after 23h00 injuring 4 people. According to the preliminary report, the SACAA was informed that the B747-400 aircraft was cleared for takeoff on Runway 03L. Further, it was confirmed to the SACAA that the air crew got instructions from the Air Traffic Control to taxi using taxi way B. The crew continued onto taxi way M which is narrower resulting in the aircraft impacting on an office building behind the SAA Technical hangers. Four officials who were in the building were injured by the debris from the building. The 17 Crew and 185 passengers who were in the aircraft escaped unharmed and were evacuated from the aircraft through door no. 5.

Fuel spillage was reported from the aircraft but this was contained by the airport fire services without further incidents.

The SACAA dispatched investigators last night and early this morning they witnessed the recovery of the aircraft as well as the removal of the flight recorder from the aircraft. The investigation continues.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority wishes a speedy recovery to the injured officials.

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About the SACAA:

The SACAA promotes and maintains a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

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