

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**05 November 2014**

**South African Civil Aviation Authority's Aviation Growth and Safety Conference off to an excellent start**

**Midrand, 05-11-2014.** The SACAA's inaugural Aviation Growth and Safety Conference yesterday lifted off with the focus on the potential for aviation growth on the continent and in South Africa. The Director of Civil Aviation, Ms. Poppy Khoza, opened the proceedings by emphasizing the need for both aviation growth and safety to prosper in unison to the benefit of the aviation industry. She stated that in spite of the improvements in the growth of the industry, safety and security much can still be done.

'The lack of substantial reduction in the number of accidents is a challenge we need to continuously look into. We cannot waver in our cause of lowering the accident rate,' said Ms Khoza.

The newly appointed Chairperson of the CAA Board, Mr. Smunda Mokoena, enlightened the audience with the latest local and global economic statistics of civil aviation activity, and stressed the need for cooperation among various States on the continent, to open the skies over Africa and realize the continent's potential for economic growth.

Messrs. Dawie Roodt and Liberty Mcube, both Chief Economists with the Efficient Group and the Competitions Commission respectively, addressed matters about South Africa's place in the global economy, aviation in the current economic climate as well as competition and regulatory issues. Mr. Alawani, the General Manager of Air Transport Operations at the Nigerian CAA and Mr Raphael Kuuchi, Vice-President of Africa at IATA spoke on the Yamoussoukro Declaration and effective airline cost control model. The rest of the day had rich presentations from speakers representing the Department of Transport, SAA and Comair.

To watch all the highlights of day 1's proceedings, go to SACAA TV network on [www.caatv.org](http://www.caatv.org). The channel can also be viewed on all the smartphones.

Catch all the breaking news from both SACAA twitter and Facebook pages.

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***About the SACAA:***

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (“SACAA”) is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) (“the Act”). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board (“the Board”). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining 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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