



MEDIA RELEASE

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The SA Civil Aviation Authority launches inaugural industry awards

The inaugural Civil Aviation Industry Awards, aimed at recognising individuals and companies for their outstanding contribution to aviation, were announced today. The announcement was made by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), a regulatory entity tasked with ensuring safe, secure, and sustainable civil aviation operations in South Africa.

“At any given second or minute there is an aircraft taking off or landing somewhere in the world. Moreover, every time an aircraft takes off, the lives of people on board are in the hands of aviation professionals. The seamless nature of air transport belies the intricate processes involved in aviation operations. As a result of these entrenched, harmonious, and mature aviation processes, we have come to expect that every take-off will result in an incident-free landing. Hence, very few of us pause to ponder how, and who is behind our safe and secure air transportation. The fact is that behind the scenes there are thousands of individuals who carry out critical duties in order to safely and securely get passengers and goods from one point to another. Until now, no one has ever made an effort to acknowledge the contributions of these individuals and companies across all aviation sectors in South Africa,” says Ms Poppy Khoza, who leads the SACAA as the Director of Civil Aviation (CEO).

Khoza anticipates that the Civil Aviation Industry Awards will help change the *status quo* and provide a platform to commend the contributions of individuals and companies that continue to contribute to the country’s remarkable aviation safety and security record. She also hopes that the Awards will not only provide exposure and the validation of participating individuals and organisations, but also create a process and platform to start documenting essential case studies relating to the continued upkeep of high standards of aviation safety and security.

The timing of the launch of the awards is ideal, as it falls on the year when the SACAA celebrates 20 years of existence, and it also coincides with our country's centenary celebrations of iconic struggle stalwarts, namely that of former President, Dr Nelson Mandela and Ms Albertina Sisulu.

"Notably, the Awards are also taking place on the back of last year's remarkable aviation safety audit results, and slightly ahead of the looming aviation security audit, which will also be undertaken by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an agency of the United Nations tasked with administering civil aviation matters across the world. The resolve to do well in all aspects of aviation is still fresh in our minds as the regulator and the industry," Khoza elaborates.

A total of 14 awards are up for grabs, making them very inclusive and comprehensive. The awards will be assessed by an independent judging panel comprising eminent and accomplished individuals, chosen for their immense experience drawn from various aviation and business disciplines.

"We have ensured that we have a wide range of categories to choose from, and as such, the winners will emerge from many different spheres of aviation, as each plays a pertinent role. We wish to turn this into an annual premier event that attracts the attention of not only the captains of the aviation industry, but also that of each and every aviator in our country. It would also be an immeasurable accomplishment if these awards could grow into a regional event that provides an opportunity to applaud all concerned. After all, aviation transcends borders," concludes Khoza.

A full list of categories, and detailed information about the Civil Aviation Industry Awards, as well as how to enter the Awards, can be accessed via www.civilaviationawards.co.za. Enquiries pertaining to the awards can be emailed to: caia@caa.co.za. Award submissions will be accepted until 13 September 2018. Deserving winners will receive the awards at a glitzy event to be held in October 2018.

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About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is a Schedule 3A public entity reporting to the Department of Transport established in terms of the Civil Aviation Authority Act, 2009 (Act No 13 of 2009) (the Act). 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. The SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board.

About the Civil Aviation Industry Awards:

The Civil Aviation Industry Awards (CAIA) are Awards which are aimed at recognising individuals and companies for their outstanding contribution to aviation.

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