



**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**18 NOVEMBER 2019**

**South African Civil Aviation Authority on the SAA strike**

[Johannesburg] The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) has noted with concern the statements attributed to the National Union of Metal workers of South Africa (NUMSA) alleging that South African Airways (SAA) is utilising personnel with no relevant work experience in the maintenance and repair of aircraft and in the cabin crew area.

Primarily the obligation and responsibility of ensuring passenger safety is that of the airline management and in this regard the airline provided the SACAA with contingency plans prior to the strike and in those assured the Director of Civil Aviation that the airline will take all the necessary care to uphold civil aviation safety and security.

The SACAA is responsible for ensuring continued compliance with applicable Civil Aviation Regulations by all operators and to this end, since the strike started the Regulator is in constant contact with SAA to ensure that the safety of passengers and crew is not compromised. Following the airline's decision to operate a limited number of international flights, they have assured the SACAA that all flights are being operated by qualified Cabin and Flight Crew and that all technicians attending to aircraft are appropriately licensed and rated.

The process of conducting spot checks by the SACAA, as and when necessary, is ongoing.

The Regulator would also like to implore NUMSA to come forward with credible information that supports their statements.

The SACAA wishes to assure the public that we take our mandate of regulating civil aviation safety and security seriously and under no circumstances will we knowingly allow non-compliances to continue by any operator. If there are practices that are irregular and non-compliant with legislation, the SACAA will not hesitate to act.

**-ENDS-**

**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.*

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