

MEDIA RELEASE

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SACAA and aviation bodies host global aviation security event

Midrand - The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), in partnership with the Department of Transport and key aviation security stakeholders, are commemorating the **Year of Security Culture (YOSC)**.

Resolution 40 -11, which was adopted by the 40th Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly, indicated that ICAO would continue work on the development of tools to enhance aviation security awareness and the security culture, making it a priority and designating 2020 as the YOSC.

Consequently, member States were requested to support the implementation of these activities and to deliver practical security culture events and initiatives throughout 2021 and beyond. A special call was made for States to also support the aviation industry by sharing best practices in the aviation security culture using the various means at their disposal, including the sharing of guidance material, toolkits, e-learning tools, short films, pamphlets and articles that establish and encourage a positive security culture.

With the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacting aviation since the beginning of 2020, the ICAO Council decided to extend the YOSC to 2021. As a Regulatory Authority, and consistent with the mandate of the organization, SACAA will continue with the campaign beyond 2021.

The objectives of the campaign are to create and increase aviation security awareness; educate employees and the public on aviation security threats; communicate the importance of security; encourage cooperation at the different industry levels; reinforce the value of security by inculcating a security culture; encourage reporting and information-sharing and promote cyber security.

The Director of Civil Aviation, Ms Poppy Khoza, says aviation security is everyone's responsibility. "The YOSC has served to remind all aviation stakeholders how crucially

important aviation security is and that every person in the value chain of air transport, including passengers and the public, need to safeguard aviation security at all cost. "

"The SACAA has embraced the drive towards aviation security awareness. At the end of July 2021, SACAA hosted a virtual launch of the YOSC, together with our shareholder, the Department of Transport, the stakeholders and partners in aviation security, the ICAO Regional Office and prominent industry bodies. Matters such as establishing security culture behavioural changes and the impact of new technologies were discussed", concluded Ms Khoza.

During October Transport Month, the SACAA and its aviation industry stakeholders presented physical security awareness roadshows and exhibitions at airports aimed at promoting the culture of aviation security.

Key stakeholders such as government, the aviation industry need to share information and work closely together in preventing and combating security incidents. The public and travellers are also urged to report any suspicious activities to the local airport authorities and / or law enforcement agencies. Such efforts will sustain a robust security system that protects the lives of people but also property from unlawful acts in the aviation value chain. Information-sharing in aviation security is a delicate and sensitive topic that needs role players to fully comprehend their individual roles and work towards giving assurance at critical points to ensure that the system remains impenetrable.

As a country, we are making headway in implementing the resolutions of the 40th session of the ICAO Assembly. In the previous year, the organisation developed an Industry Cyber Security Strategy that is currently at implementation phase. This and other initiatives will position and contribute to the global effort towards elevating the aviation security agenda.

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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.

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