

Aerodromes Operations department goes on a charm offensive

Any communication expert worth his salt would tell you that the best platform for effective communication is face-to-face. It would seem that the Aerodromes department took this philosophy to heart, as they recently held their first round of stakeholder workshops.

“Experience has taught us that ‘policing’ without any prior and adequate sharing of information does not yield positive results. You can not expect stakeholders to fully fulfil their obligations as per the regulations if they do not understand what is expected of them. As such, these workshops are one of the various tools that we use to communicate with stakeholders. I would go as far as saying that workshops are a better tool to communicate with stakeholders, as



stakeholders get an opportunity to ask questions and as the hosts we are also able to get instant feedback,” says Sam Mokgotsane, Manager: Aerodromes Operations.

Hosted under the banner ***Aerodromes Operations*** and organised with the assistance of the Safety and Security Promotions department, the workshop was held on 4 March 2009 at the Midrand Conference Centre.

The workshop was designed for aerodromes personnel with the aim of equipping them with valuable insights into regulatory issues that will guide them to meet the required safety standards in aviation. Some of the key points on the agenda included:

- safety enhancements that can be achieved through the development and implementation of relevant safety programmes and quality control systems; and
- best practice in Emergency Response Planning.



The panel consisted of:

- Sam Mokgotsane, Manager: Aerodromes Operations (Programme Director and Facilitator)
- Nelson Nkabiti, Senior Manager: Aerodromes and Facilities (Welcoming Address)
- Shadi Mokone (Aerodromes Operations Manual Requirements)
- Huibert van Seventer (Aerodrome Rescue and Fire-fighting Requirements Emergency Preparedness)
- Benson Sibiya (Apron Safety and Management)
- Josie Swiegers (Training and Safety Management System {SMS} as well as part-time presenter for ICAO Safety courses?)
- Mandla Nkosi (Confidential Aviation Hazard Reporting System - CAHRS)
- Danny Perumal (Safety Management System Requirements)

The workshop was well attended and received by industry role players. Delegates came from all corners of the country and among them there were airports managers, airside safety officers, airside safety inspectors, aerodrome rescue and fire fighting managers as well as officers responsible for the development of aerodromes operations manuals.

“The workshop had significant value for both delegates and the CAA as we were able to draw insight from delegates as much as they did from the presentations. The workshop also nudged us close to a harmonious working relationship with the industry. I am also glad that we partnered with the Safety and Security Promotions department as they looked at the logistics as well as branding and image aspects; therefore enabling the panel to concentrate getting the right audience and packaging the day’s core messages,” explains Sam Mokgotsane, Manager: Aerodromes Operations.

About the Aerodromes and Facilities department

The department forms part of the Air Safety Infrastructure division. The department’s main responsibility is to oversee the setting and monitoring of safety standards for aerodromes, including helistops, in respect of civil infrastructure, electrical installations, aerodrome quality management system, apron operations and rescue and firefighting services.

