

SOUTH AFRICAN



*CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY*

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THE CAA IS RAISING THE BAR ON AVIATION SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Civil Aviation Authority today launched Project “Towards an A1 CAA”, an initiative designed to promote, enhance and improve aviation safety in South Africa.

The project was announced by the newly appointed CEO, Mr Zakes Myeza with the objective of raising the CAA’s level of professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its aviation safety regulatory activities.

Last year there were 152 reported air accidents in SA, compared to an average of 150 000 air traffic movements per quarter. At the same time the national CAA aircraft register grew by almost 50% in the last 10 years, indicating an overall improvement in safety. “However, we regard a fatal accident as one too many”, stated Mr Myeza.

“The CAA is totally committed to meeting the parallel and complementary objectives of aviation safety and critical skills development in SA. Skills shortage is a South Africa wide challenge which government is addressing through programmes such as the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA). The CAA subscribes and is fully committed to such national initiatives. We acknowledge past challenges that have faced CAA in recent years, all of which have provided the impetus for the launch of Project A1”, he added.

“A project of this nature is an essential step in enhancing the CAA’s performance as a world class professional aviation regulator. This will enable the CAA to better meet its mandate in facilitating safe civil air transport for SA”, explained Mr Myeza.

Project A1 is geared towards ensuring that appropriate resources are put in place to meet and support the industry and public requirements.

In particular the project will look at improving critical areas of safety oversight required by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). This will include a review and overhaul of regulations, procedures, in addition to CAA’s functional structure, applicable oversight systems, qualified personnel and the effective resolution of all findings emanating from past audit and other processes.

In addition to the project A1 initiative, the CAA has invited its US counterpart, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide further technical assistance thereby contributing to the CAA’s self evaluation process. This is in line with the 2001 standing agreement between the two aviation regulatory bodies.

SA currently has over 9000 aircraft on the national civil aircraft register.

CAA is also responsible for ensuring that over 13 900 active licensed pilots meet the international proficiency and performance standards and that close to 400 Aircraft maintenance and repair organisations in SA meet their safety obligations.

The CAA is fully aware that the minimum requirements prescribed by ICAO are just that, “minimum”. To deliver a first class safety environment for the industry and the public it serves, the CAA have to do better than that. “We want to position ourselves as an authority that is committed to continuously

improving aviation safety and security, to improved customer satisfaction and service delivery and as an employer of choice”, added Mr Myeza.

The CAA acknowledges that there are challenges within the industry. The role of the industry is imperative in resolving such challenges and therefore the CAA will be engaging them through various interventions planned as a result of this project. With the support we have from both the Ministry of Transport and the Board of the CAA we are confident that we will succeed.

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