



MEDIA RELEASE

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CAA AND TETA TO WORK TOGETHER TO OVERSEE QUALITY OF TRAINING IN AVIATION INDUSTRY

Friday, 7 July 2006. Midrand. Today, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), together with the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA), have formally signed an extension to their existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the two parties agreed to work together to oversee and monitor the work of organizations that offer aviation training.

This agreement will ensure that all forms of aviation training given to people in the aviation industry is of high international standards.

According to this agreement, the SACAA and TETA will be jointly responsible for the accreditation of aviation training providers, both operational training as well as maintenance training. Both organizations agreed that support would be given to those organizations that have the infrastructure to provide and deliver high quality training as well as those who need to improve and raise the levels of delivery to acceptable standards.

“We are very excited about this agreement. As a regulator, the SACAA has a legal mandate to oversee and enhance the levels of aviation safety and security in this country, and for us to achieve that, we need properly trained and qualified people, both within the CAA and in the industry. The issue of training and skills development cannot be ignored and left to chance – it has to be properly managed because it will go a long way in ensuring the achievement of high levels of safety in this country. Hence the SACAA and TETA have committed themselves to working together and

use their combined expertise to oversee and monitor this important aspect of aviation development”, said Mr Zakes Myeza, Chief Executive Officer of the SACAA.

Mr Myeza said the SACAA has committed itself to high levels of excellence in everything they do. He said as a regulator, the SACAA had a role to ensure that the quality of aviation training in the industry was of high international standards. He said, “By working together with TETA, this role will be enhanced further through our combined efforts. It has been emphasized many times that there is a shortage of critical skills in South Africa, and both parties have a crucial role to play in addressing this problem in our industry.

This agreement comes shortly after the SACAA launched a business re-engineering project called “Towards A1 CAA”, aimed at transforming the SACAA into a world class organization, and hence raising the bar on aviation safety and security in South Africa. Training and skills development both within the SACAA and in the aviation industry, are an important element of that project.

Mr Myeza said part of the SACAA’s mission was to oversee and facilitate the functioning and development of the aviation industry. “Training and skills development is a crucial element of that development, because we cannot talk about industry development without looking at people development. The two are inextricably related”, said Mr Myeza.

Recent media reports have been questioning the quality of training received by personnel within the industry, such as pilots, inspectors and maintenance staff, which is ultimately purported to contribute to the current accident record prevalent in air transport. The combined oversight of aviation training providers by utilizing the expertise from both the CAA and TETA will ensure that aviation personnel receive training of high quality standards.

Dr Piet Bothma, the Chief Executive Officer of TETA, said the role of his organization was to ensure that all providers that offer aviation training are properly accredited and monitored. “We will ensure that these providers have the best quality management systems in place, and that they produce only the best results. We will ensure that personnel receive training of the highest quality”, he said.

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