

SOUTH AFRICAN



*CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY*

CAA MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2006

The South African Aviation industry joins forces in a move to ensure safer skies

Durban – The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is taking the discussion on aviation safety to the grass roots level with the aim of ensuring that the entire industry takes ownership of decreasing accident statistics in the country. Today the SACAA will be engaging its partners in aviation into a discussion of how the Durban region can reduce accidents in their area. This is only the second in a number of provinces the SACAA is planning to tour in the next five months.

The past few months have been plagued by a number accidents, some of them fatal, which involve smaller aircraft or non-commercial aircraft. What has come out clearly in the researched statistics of the SACAA is that most of these accidents are caused by human factors and this is followed by technical and other factors. The constant question asked in these discussions is how can each region contribute to aviation safety and what interventions can be introduced to make a difference. Furthermore, each region is asked to set targets for itself to reduce their record.

Even though the industry has been growing by approximately 10% over the past 10 years and the industry is experiencing a drastic growth in Air Traffic Movement, the number of accidents still occurring can be regarded as either being constant or having decreased but they are still not at a rate which the SACAA finds acceptable. SACAA however, acknowledges that the regulator alone cannot achieve this. It's partners play a crucial role in ensuring that we all comply and achieve our targets.

The discussions during the seminar today will include sharing safety recommendations from the National seminar held in February 2006, setting regional targets for improving

safety and reviewing the region's accident statistics and probing the causes as well as come up with possible solutions.

The discussions will be summed up by inviting ideas of how the industry can reward acceptable behavior from stakeholders on an annual basis through hosting a "Night of Honour" for deserving industry players who are going an extra mile for safety.

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