

Aviation sector ready for take off ahead of Confederations Cup

However, the general aviation industry should brace itself for ‘minor ‘turbulence’.

Media release

Word count: 554 (headline included)

For immediate release

Midrand – With the Confederations Cup just days away, major players in the South African aviation industry today announced that it’s all systems go, however, the general aviation industry must brace itself for ‘minor turbulence’. This announcement was made at a media conference hosted jointly by the Department of Transport (DoT), Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS), South African Police Service (SAPS), South African Air Force (SAAF), and the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA).

Speaking at the conference, SACAA’s Chief Executive Officer, Captain Colin Jordaan said that an event such as the Confederations Cup requires a number of key role players to increase the capacity of their services in order to accommodate the anticipated peak in air traffic. “As the civil aviation regulator, the SACAA is satisfied with all the necessary precautionary measures in place and as such feels that it is all systems go towards ensuring aviation safety and security during this event. In addition, we believe that the Confederations Cup will be a true test of South Africa’s capabilities and readiness to host the world’s biggest soccer extravaganza, the 2010 FIFA World Cup.”

Jordaan further cautioned the general aviation industry to expect some airspace restrictions which may impact on their day-to-day operations. “As would be expected leading up to and during the Confederations Cup, much of the transportation of supporters, players and officials will be by air, and this mode of travel will also feature prominently in many other activities in and around the host cities. This will mean higher than usual air traffic volumes, and as the custodian of aviation safety and security in the country, the SACAA, with the collaboration of the DoT, ATNS, SAPS and the SAAF, needs to ensure that air safety and security measures are in place and are properly co-ordinated. Unfortunately, one of those measures involves airspace restrictions around host cities, prior to, during and after each game.”

According to Jordaan, an Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) Supplement has been issued which outlines specific temporary restricted airspace areas declared. This measure will affect areas and airports situated closer to stadia in the various host cities. Airports situated close to the stadia include amongst others, O.R Tambo International Airport, Lanseria, Rand, Grand Central, Bloemfontein and Pilanesburg.

The notices that have been issued contain information on arrival and departure slot co-ordination, airspace restrictions, authorisation and vetting procedures as well as Air

Traffic Service flight plan and transponder requirements. The notices are available on the SACAA (www.caa.co.za) and ATNS (www.atns.co.za) web-sites.

Jordaan further added that the SACAA has put measures in place to deal with the issuing of 'last minute' Foreign Operators Permits. "In addition, we have augmented our capacity in order to ensure adequate oversight over all aerodromes, particularly heli-stops. We also would like to urge the general aviation industry to adhere to the rules of engagement to avoid conflict with personnel from the security sector who have made a commitment to step in, if necessary, to offer assistance in ensuring safety and security for the various events. Moreover, the Air Force is deploying additional mobile primary radar at sites close to the venues, which will allow non-transponder equipped aircraft to be tracked, even at low level," cautioned Jordaan.

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