

MEDIA STATEMENT

09 September 2011

## CAA sets the record straight on allegations pertaining to SKA SA's (AirQuarius Air Charter) air operator's certificate (AOC)

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) would like to confirm that it is aware of a memo written by an employee, who is no longer employed by the SACAA, about allegations of improper conduct during the renewal of an air operator's certificate (AOC).

The SACAA further wishes to point out that, when the said memo was received, i.e. last year, an attempt, at various managerial levels, was made to address the said allegations. However, it would seem that the matter fell through the cracks until when it was reported on 16 August 2011 through the SACAA's recently launched national **tip-offs** hotline.

On becoming aware of the allegations, the acting Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. Zakhele Thwala, instructed that a full investigation be conducted.

"The investigation is still underway. However, due to the seriousness of the allegations and in the interest of safety, I also requested my team to check all documents pertaining to this approval and also conduct additional inspections to ensure that there are no safety gaps related to this particular operator. So far there are no indications of any major concerns that could warrant the SACAA to use its prerogative to withdraw the said AOC approval. Having said that though; the final inspections are being conducted and we will soon know the correct status of this operator's AOC. It is only then that a decision will be made on whether to retain or withdraw the approval;" explained Mr. Thwala.

He further said that he is encouraged by the use of the **tip-offs** hotline; adding that "this authenticates our instinct to be proactive and introduce this type of platform in order to eradicate any possible improper conduct in the aviation industry".

“The SACAA would like to reiterate that in the aviation business there is no margin for errors. As such, in discharging our mandate which is to promote and maintain a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in line with international standards; we will do so without any fear, prejudice or favour;” concluded Mr Thwala.

Whistleblowers can use the following methods to report suspected unlawful activities.

Fax: 0800 997 263  
E-mail: [sacaa@tip-offs.com](mailto:sacaa@tip-offs.com)  
Postal address: Tip-offs Anonymous  
FreePost KZN 138  
Umhlanga Rocks  
4320

**-ENDS-**

***About the SACAA:***

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (“SACAA”) is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) (“the Act”). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board (“the Board”). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

**For more information contact:**

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