

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**16 August 2011**

**Wreckages of the two missing aircraft from Tzaneen Air show found**

*Midrand.* The SACAA would like to confirm that two aircraft carrying 13 passengers including crew were reported missing on Sunday around 1:30pm. The aircraft reportedly took off from Tzaneen airport at 10:30am, having participated in the Tzaneen air show and were bound for Rand airport in Johannesburg. Following the notification that the aircraft were missing, the SA Search and Rescue commenced with the search on Sunday and continued periodically as the weather presented challenges during the search period. Early this morning notification was received at 8:05am that the wreckages have been located in a mountainous area called Mamatswiri at around 7:15am.

“It is unfortunate that we report that no survivors were found by the search team. The two Albatros aircraft were carrying 6 and 7 passengers respectively, among them children” said Mr Thwala, the Director of Civil Aviation at the regulator.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority’s independent investigation team was on stand by from the time the aircraft were reported missing and have been part of the Disaster Management Centre that was set up at Tzaneen airport and later moved to the Tzaneen Fire Station. Authorities also set up a Crisis Centre at Rand airport in aid of the families of the passengers who were in both aircraft. Support teams are continuing to provide the required assistance to the families at Rand airport and in Tzaneen.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority extends heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of these two crashes as well as the aviation fraternity on this tragedy.

It would seem that the two aircraft crashed against a mountain and both aircraft sustained post impact fire.

As is the norm, the investigation into the cause of these accidents has commenced. "We would like to thank the teams which comprised of the SAPS Air wing, the SA Air Force, the Mountain Rescue Club and all other volunteers that were involved in the search and rescue operations, concluded Mr Thwala.

**-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.

Enquiries

Phindiwe Gwebu  
SACAA Spokesperson  
Tel. 011 545 1086  
Cell. 083 461 6070  
Email. [gwebup@caa.co.za](mailto:gwebup@caa.co.za)