

**INTERIM STATEMENT**

**22 JANUARY 2021**

**INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN RELATION TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ZS-CAR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON THE 23 JANUARY 2020**

In accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13, Standard 6.6, read together with the South African Civil Aviation Regulation Part 12.05.1 (7),: *“If the report cannot be made publicly available within twelve months, the State conducting the investigation shall make an interim statement publicly available on each anniversary of the occurrence, detailing the progress of the investigation and any safety issues raised”*.

Hence the release of this **Interim Statement** on the anniversary of the aircraft accident involving ZS-CAR.

Following the tragic fatal accident, which took place in the George area on the 23 January 2020, the South African Accident and Incident Investigation Division (AIID) released a preliminary report on 23 February 2020, i.e. 30 days after the day of the accident, as required by ICAO Annex 13.

The preliminary report also recommended to the Minister of Transport to delegate the investigation to another Accident Investigation Authority from anywhere in the world. The Minister accepted the recommendations issued by AIID and several countries were identified for possible delegation of the ZS-CAR accident investigation.

Unfortunately, countries around the world went into national lockdown soon after possible countries were identified for the investigation. This had a serious impact in terms of the work and continuation of the investigation into the cause of ZS-CAR fatal accident.

We wish to confirm that the process of delegating the investigation to another independent foreign investigating entity has been concluded. The investigation has been delegated to the Ethiopian Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AIIB).

While still in Ethiopia, the AAIB commenced with the investigation of ZS-CAR by reviewing the preliminary report issued by the AIID. It is expected that a team of highly skilled AAIB investigators will be arriving in South Africa sometime next week, i.e. during the week beginning on 25 January 2021, to continue with the investigation of the ZS-CAR fatal accident. A further progress report shall be provided hopefully within the next few months to the public by the AAIB. This shall be in the form of a progress report into their investigation at that particular point.

This interim statement should be read together with the preliminary report issued on 23 February 2020.

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