SOUTH AFRICAN
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE PENDING APPEAL INVOLVING A TRANSGENDER LICENCE HOLDER

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is receiving a number of requests for comment on a matter that involves a license holder whose matter is currently on appeal with the Aeromedical Committee (AMC).

In terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act. No 13 of 2009) and the POPI Act, the Regulator is restricted from naming the individual or offering any medical information relating to the applicant.

We are offering this response as a means of giving clarity on a matter that is now in the public domain and to offer clarity in areas where there may be misconceptions.

The SACAA confirms that the applicant's case was last reviewed by the AMC in June 2023, and gives assurance that all medical decisions that were made by the AMC are in line with applicable regulations and protocols as well as international best practice. All AMC decisions are based solely on medical information presented for review, and NEVER on gender orientation of an applicant.

The AMC is an advisory body that comprises of medical, psychological, surgical, ancillary health and aviation industry experts appointed to advise the SACAA on any medical risks of existing or prospective aviation personnel in line with the legislative requirements.

This committee is appointed by the SACAA's Director of Civil Aviation, whose responsibility is to help in ensuring that aviation personnel, in possession of medical certificates upholds the highest standards of safety.

Aviation safety and security compliance is non-negotiable with the SACAA.

The SACAA is the caretaker of South African skies, and the Regulator's mandate each day is to ensure that South Africa continues to retain the country's record of no fatal scheduled airline accidents in nearly four decades.

The State's aviation safety oversight systems were also confirmed as leading in Africa and among the best in the world when the State was audited by the International Civil Aviation Organization earlier this year.

Moreover, the SACAA subscribes and subjects itself to the Constitution of the Republic as the highest law of the land, while also ensuring that decisions made are in line with the spirit and purport of the Constitution.

ENDS

For further media-related enquiries and interviews:

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