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For Immediate Release

THE SACAA URGES HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE FOLLOWING A SPATE OF GENERAL AVIATION FATAL ACCIDENTS IN RECENT MONTHS

Centurion, 9 December 2025 – The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues affected by the recent general aviation (GA) fatal accidents recorded across the country. The Regulator is deeply concerned by these occurrences that closely resembles a similar trend back in October 2008.

In this 2025/26 financial year alone, the Accidents and Incidents Investigations Division (AIID) recorded 43 accidents of which 12 were fatal accidents, resulting in 17 fatalities. This is an increase of 10 fatal accidents when compared to the same period at the end of November 2024.

When compared to previous years, there were 131 accidents (four fatal with seven fatalities) in the 2024/25 financial year; 115 accidents resulted in 13 fatal accidents and 19 fatalities in the 2023/24 financial year; and 113 accidents resulting in nine fatal accidents and 12 fatalities in the 2022/23 financial year.

The AIID is conducting independent investigations to determine the causal and contributory factors behind these accidents. While these investigations are still underway, the SACAA is accelerating proactive safety interventions under the newly approved General Aviation Safety Strategy (GASS) 2025–2030, aimed at strengthening safety performance and reducing preventable risks in the GA sector.

As the festive holiday season approaches, typically accompanied by increased flight activity, tight schedules, and elevated operational pressure, the SACAA reminds all pilots and operators to prioritise disciplined decision-making, meticulous flight planning with strict adherence to regulations.

Experience-induced complacency, undue haste, and self-imposed pressure remain significant contributors to avoidable accidents.

The SACAA also draws attention to GA safety through various General Aviation Reduction Seminars that are held with Industry annually as well as safety articles that are included in the SKYWatch publications that are available on the SACAA website that provide detailed analysis of accident trends and mitigation strategies.

The SACAA appreciates the industry's improved reporting culture and urges continued commitment to accurate safety reporting, which remains central to preventing loss of life.

Our skies remain safe and keeping them safe is a shared responsibility.

ENDS

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Editorial Note:

The statement features SACAA's new logo. The refreshed logo will be used on all official communications going forward. We kindly request that media partners update their archives or images with the new logo.