Protect Yourself Against Fraudulent Aviation Training Organisations

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) has noted with growing concern an increase in reports from members of the public who have fallen victim to fraudulent Aviation Training Organisations (ATOs) and training providers.

These organisations and individuals exploit aspiring aviation professionals by offering training programmes they are not authorised to conduct, operating without the required SACAA approvals or offering courses that fall outside the scope of approved training.

For many students, pursuing a career in aviation represents a significant personal and financial investment. Unfortunately, unscrupulous operators take advantage of this and leave unsuspecting students with substantial financial losses and potentially delaying their aviation careers.

Protect Yourself

Before registering with or making any payment to an ATO or training provider, prospective students are strongly encouraged to verify their approval status and the training they are authorised to provide.

Always:

- Request proof of the organisation's SACAA approval certificate and Operations Specifications and verify through the SACAA e-Services portal that the ATO is currently approved and authorised to operate.
- Confirm that the specific course or training programme you intend to undertake is included in the organisation's approved scope list of training.
- Retain copies of all correspondence, agreements, contracts and proof of payment.

Working Together Against Fraud

The SACAA remains committed to promoting aviation safety, protecting the public, and maintaining the integrity of South Africa's aviation industry.

The SACAA therefore urges industry stakeholders, prospective students, and members of the public to report any training organisation operating without the required SACAA approval, as well as any approved organisations offering courses or training programmes that fall outside the scope of its approval.

