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**UNEMBARGOED**

Issued by the **AIC 18. 19 Task Team** under the collective auspices of the **Commercial Aviation Association of South Africa (CAASA)**, the **Aeroclub of South Africa**, the **Aviation Watch Action Committee**, the **Aviation Action Group** and Concerned Aircraft Owners, Pilots, Engineers and Operators.

## AVIATION INDUSTRY ENVISAGES RELIEF AGAINST 'THOSE IN IVORY TOWERS' ON EMOTIVE SEPT. 11, 2025

The highly emotive Sept. 11, 2025 has been set to commence an application by beleaguered South African aviators seeking urgent intervention against 'those in proverbial ivory towers', the SACAA. The AIC 18.19 Task Team, representing the organised aviation industry as loyal users of certain engines, is expecting a positive outcome.

The Gauteng Division of the High Court in Pretoria will be asked to reinstate the tenets of former legislation and set aside a wasteful and unsafe 12-year engine overhaul rule recently imposed by the SACAA. The Court will also be asked to revert to the status quo, which has been proven to work internationally with reasonably acceptable low risk and has similarly worked in South Africa for the past 19 years, in contrast to what is currently being enacted.

The Task Team, comprising the five major industry representative bodies including top-class subject-matter experts acting in solidarity, maintains that lack of insight into certain overhaul and maintenance protocols have been causing the current situation resulting in well over a thousand aircraft and helicopters effectively grounded for several weeks to date.

The combined industry contends that the Regulator has acted unilaterally without proper prior broad-based consultation or meaningful and knowledgeable deliberation taking into account empirical data. The harmful impact and loss of use currently being suffered by participants and stake holders in the general and light commercial sectors have never been properly considered. The Task Team envisages that the date/s in Court will conversely mark the beginning of good sense being restored to aviation governance.

The Case Management Meeting took place before the Deputy Judge President (DJP) for the High Court, Gauteng Division, Pretoria, on Jul. 29, 2025. Certain parameters were proposed by counsel for the applicants and respondents in respect of the filing of further affidavits and processes in preparation for the hearing of the matter, whereafter the DJP defined set parameters ensuring that the matter will be heard, on an opposed basis, on Sept. 11 and 12, 2025.

Participants in the general and light commercial aviation industry have collaborated thus far with a unified goal in mind, and look forward to continued cooperation when approached by the Research Institute of the Solidarity trade movement. The aim of the research project is to use a data-driven approach in determining the scope, holistic impact of damages being suffered.

The cascading impact on secondary industries like fire-fighting, crop-spraying, hunting, eco-tourism, and the unintended losses airports will suffer due to lack of revenue through charging passenger taxes and landing fees, will also be considered and quantified. **[End]**

Aviation users affected by the current situation are advised to contact their club, association or organisation for details to become involved or contribute:

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