

	Committee Feedback <b>MISASA ARO-007</b>	<b>AGM 2025</b>
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Not much has changed from the consolidated report presented in 2021 noting that this feedback is provided not as a Chairman’s Report, but rather as an overview of MISASA’s activities, challenges, and achievements over the past three years.

### **Navigating Three Years of Aviation Advocacy**

Summarizing three years of active engagement, negotiation, and debate—especially our interactions with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)—is no simple task. Throughout this period, MISASA’s preference has been to utilize Aero Club of South Africa (AeCSA) newsletters to keep members informed rather than flood inboxes with exhaustive updates. Our focus has always been on constructive progress, acknowledging both victories and ongoing challenges. It is worth noting that volunteering in this industry demands resilience and commitment.

### **Key Achievements and Activities**

- **MISASA has played a frontline role in advocacy, most notably in:**
  - Successfully contesting unreasonable demands from residents in Ballito and defending the Blue Route.
  - Participating in virtually every CAA workgroup, sub-committee, and regulatory process—spanning CAR Parts 24 through 149.
  - Offering steadfast support to Aero Club’s advocacy efforts, particularly those led by Walter Doubell.
  - Maintained active participation and attendance in the Airspace Planning discussions for Cape Winelands Airport, ensuring that recreational aviation interests are well represented in this developing aviation hub.
  - Being the first AeCSA section to back the AIC 18-19 legal action, demonstrating a willingness to lead where others took a more cautious approach.
- **Regulatory Compliance and Improvement:**
  - MISASA ARO 007 has consistently received clean CAA audits for several consecutive years. The improvement from our initial audit—after robust corrective actions—demonstrates significant organizational development and effective collaboration with audit teams.
- **Financial Stewardship:**
  - A strict fiscal policy and prudent financial management have ensured MISASA’s financial position has strengthened steadily over this period. This stable financial footing supports the sustainability of our operations and advocacy efforts.

### **Notable Trends and Industry Challenges**

- **Decline in Recreational Events:**

The number of open and active recreational aviation events has notably decreased in recent years. Where prior to 2019 there were more than 35 events annually, today we struggle to confirm even 12 national events—often with uncertainty regarding their completion.

Factors contributing to this decline include:

  - The direct and residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Increased regulatory burden and rising costs imposed by the CAA, resulting in more frequent event cancellations or prohibitive expenses.
  - Broader national economic challenges, including increasing costs to organizers and participants.



### **Keeping the Spirit Alive**

- Members are strongly encouraged to support local events and collaborate with regional clubs to sustain momentum in recreational aviation.
- MISASA remains committed to publicizing events and supporting organizers who continue to go the extra mile—worthy of commendation.

### **Recognition and Appreciation**

- Standout events such as the annual Numbi Hotel gathering in Hazyview, organized by Brett Hickman, and the Kroon Fly-In hosted by Marius Nel, remain highlights on our calendar.
- The Kalahari Bundu Bash, established by the Mocke family and enthusiastically sponsored by MISASA, is now considered a must-attend event for pilots seeking a unique and memorable experience.

### **Conclusion**

Much has been achieved, but much work remains. We celebrate meaningful progress while remaining mindful of ongoing challenges and opportunities ahead. The MISASA Committee extends sincere thanks to all members for their trust, support, and shared commitment to preserving the spirit of “freedom of flight.”

*Notwithstanding the manifold challenges of life, it is important to acknowledge that each committee member contends with significant personal adversities yet continues to demonstrate unwavering dedication and active engagement in advancing the interests of recreational aviation.*

***“You haven’t seen a tree until you have seen its shadow from the sky”***

***Amelia Earheart***