

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POLOKWANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RESPONDS TO ALLEGATIONS REGARDING MISMANAGEMENT AND CORRUPTION THE INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM (ILS)

Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL), has noted with concern the article circulating regarding the status of Polokwane International Airport (PIA)'s Instrument Landing System (ILS) which is baseless, inaccurate and devoid of truth. GAAL recognize the public interest in this matter and wish to provide clarity, correct inaccuracies, and assure stakeholders of our commitment to transparent and accountable airport management.

The ILS for PIA was procured 20 years ago (2005) at a value of R2.6 million. A lifespan of an ILS is between 15 to 20 years depending on maintenance, availability of parts and funds for repairs. PIA's ILS became unserviceable in 2019 and all attempts to repair it were unsuccessful. Despite these efforts, the system could not be repaired due to the unavailability of critical components which are no longer manufactured because of the age and model of the equipment. As a result, in line with the safety and regulatory requirements, the ILS was decommissioned in 2024 following extensive assessments by aviation technical experts. This is contrary to the false and unfounded claim that the ILS was operational at the time of decommissioning. The decision to decommission the instrument was informed entirely by technical, operational and safety considerations ensuring compliance with aviation standards and the protection of all airspace user.

Directors: Mr V Xaba (Chairperson). Mr E Ramutanda. Ms S Phayane-Shakhane.
Mr N Mangena. Adv. E Lambani. Ms S Mabilane. Mr S Maharaj. Dr N Skeeters.
Mrs M Matli (CEO). Mr J Khulane (CFO). Adv. K Sebola (Company Secretary)

GAAL acknowledges that certain components of the decommissioned ILS were donated to Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) for repairs and maintenance of Cape Town International Airport's ILS. The donation was following thorough internal due diligence and approvals in line with established public-asset disposal protocols.

GAAL and ATNS have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which allows the two state owned entities to collaborate on mutual benefiting programmes. This donation was made in partnership with ATNS that ATNS would provide GAAL with a newer version of Omnidirectional Radio Range (VOR) in exchange for components of PIA's instrument impaired at the value of R1.5 million in 2023. In essence the instrument's book value was zero at the time of donation. GAAL rejects allegations of corruption, irregular benefit, or impropriety.

The recent flight disruptions were not attributed to the absence or unserviceability of the ILS but rather resulted from the suspension of landing procedures that are maintained by the ATNS and approved by South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). The newly approved procedures are scheduled to come into effect on the 25 December 2025.

An ILS remains a critical airport instrument and GAAL takes this opportunity to thank the MEC of the Department of Transport and Community safety, Ms Violet Mathye and the Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba for their unwavering support in providing the needed budget to procure a new system as an additional instrument to ensure safe landings and reduce flight interruptions. Procurement processes are underway following the allocation of funds during the mid-term budget adjustment.

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GAAL remains committed to transparency, safety and responsible management of aviation related infrastructure and rejects any accusations suggesting misconduct, mismanaged of funds or intentional neglect of airport operations.

Issued by:

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