



public enterprises

Department:
Public Enterprises
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

SAA FLIGHT TO BRUSSELS WAS CLEARED TO FLY TO FETCH VACCINES

PRETORIA, 18 February 2021 - By aviation law, all airline operators must apply to the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) to obtain an exemption to meet the minimum requirements for safe operations. South African Airways (SAA) applied for an exemption in order to fly to Brussels to fetch the 80,000 Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

After careful consideration, SACAA requested more information to assess the application and subsequently approved the exemption. Therefore, media reports that the national carrier was prevented from flying to Brussels to fetch the vaccines are untrue as permission to fly was obtained later than anticipated.

SAA will soon be undertaking important national interest responsibilities. The public will be kept informed about these special flights

As a shareholder on behalf of government, the Department of Public Enterprises appreciates and values the safety protocols that the flight and crew were subjected to by the SACAA.

For Media Enquiries contact: Richard Mantu 072 488 1520

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