



public enterprises

Department:
Public Enterprises
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DPE ASSURES SAA CUSTOMERS THAT THE AIRLINE WILL GROW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

PRETORIA, 18 November 2022 – The Government reiterates its commitment to the on-boarding of the strategic equity partner for South African Airways (SAA) and the growth of a competitive, sustainable and technologically agile airline. It will continue to regain its market share and offer the best service to its customers.

Government is awaiting the completion of the regulatory processes and thereafter will finalise Takatso's acquisition of the 51% shareholding in SAA. The deal is not at risk.

We condemn the deliberate misinformation and casting of doubt about the transaction and regulatory processes since the resignation of Gideon Novick as a board member of the Takatso consortium.

This distortion of facts will not succeed in derailing the creative solutions to ensuring a positive future for the airline - and its pilots and staff.

The public should be aware of the efforts of competitors, detractors, and other forces to undermine our efforts to save jobs and ensure a viable airline. The traveling public is being fleeced because of the shortage of seats.

The DPE is confident that as a strategic equity partner, Takatso will introduce the required technical, financial, and operational expertise into the business.

The current SAA operations and flights to various destination is ensuring that the national airline continues to play a critical role in the aviation industry and economy at large by providing connectivity services for both passengers and cargo, facilitating trade and investment, tourism and promoting job creation.

DPE wants to thank the traveling public and loyal SAA customers for their continued support. Your support has helped to create over 800 jobs for pilots, cabin crew and other workers.

Their jobs are being endangered by the selfishness, reckless behaviour and greed of certain elements.

The SAA team will do everything possible to ensure SAA grows from strength to strength and provide much-needed service to the traveling public given the shortage of capacity in SA.

For Media Enquiries contact Richard.mantu@dpe.gov.za or 012 431 1203.

Issued by the Department of Public Enterprises

18 November 2022