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12 May 2023

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Namibia Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) herewith refers to an article with the heading, “NCAA denies Increasing Fees to make a profit” published in the Villager newspaper dated 10 May 2022, Volume1 no. 486.

The NCAA wishes to put on record that on 09 May 2023, it held a hybrid (virtual and in-person) public consultative meeting on the proposed increase in fees and charges under Part 187 of the Namibia Civil Aviation Regulations. Fees and charges under Part 187 were last increased in 2017, therefore, the proposed increment is not to make a profit as alleged in the newspaper article but rather to catch up with inflation from 2017 to 2023 and to make sure that the revenue collected is reflective of the services rendered.

The mandate of the NCAA is to regulate, promote and develop civil aviation safety and security. In addition, NCAA renders air navigation services to all users of the Namibian airspace. These services are of a complex nature and require a highly skilled workforce trained in line with national and international standards and recommended practices. Furthermore, the air navigation equipment used to provide air navigation services does not come cheap and must be upgraded or replaced after a certain period.

The outcome of the meeting is that the participants agreed in principle that an increment of fees and charges was necessary. In fact, the participants agreed that increasing existing fees and charges by 30% bases which are informed by inflation from 2017 to 2023 was acceptable. There were some concerns around new fees and the question was rather about how much increment is fair and reasonable under the circumstances. To this end, NCAA agreed to revisit the comments received and will revert to the participants in writing on 22 May 2023. Equally, participants were requested to consider the fees and charges they consider high and propose what they consider to be reasonable.

Therefore, a statement alleging that the draft fees and charges are to make a profit and were rejected is misleading and thus regrettable. Members of the media issuing such reports are requested to refrain from doing so and are invited to verify details with our Stakeholder Relations Department at the NCAA.

NCAA upholds good corporate governance and is transparent, and accountable to our stakeholders in the management of its affairs. The public is herewith informed that audited annual financial statements since its establishment are publicly available to solidify our financial position.

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