



CAASA Newsletter



The Commercial Aviation
Association of Southern Africa

July 2026

Content Guide

Discover our latest insights and updates on the **aviation industry**. This edition features important articles, news, and the continuous efforts of CAASA to enhance aviation standards.

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FROM OUR CEO

Commercial Aviation: The Artery of Regional Growth

Every aircraft departure tells a story far greater than the movement of passengers from one destination to another. Behind every flight lies a complex economic ecosystem that connects businesses to markets, tourists to destinations, communities to essential services, and African economies to global opportunity.

As we enter the second half of 2026, the latest CAASA Aviation Activity Index (CAAI) (Note: government should be paying attention to the Index) provides an encouraging reminder that South African aviation continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience. Although the Index eased marginally during the first quarter of the year, it remains close to historic highs, confirming what many across the industry already recognise: aviation remains one of the most important economic enablers in Southern Africa.

The recovery of our sector following COVID-19 has not been accidental, while we are not there yet. It has been driven by sustained investment, the determination of operators, and the adaptability of aviation professionals who have continued to innovate despite unprecedented challenges.

The fact that aircraft movements at key airports have exceeded pre-pandemic levels, while imports of aircraft spares and helicopters continue to reach record values, reflects confidence in the long-term future of aviation. Yet resilience should never be mistaken for immunity.

The aviation industry is once again navigating an increasingly uncertain global environment. Rising geopolitical tensions, volatility in fuel prices, inflationary pressures, and the prospect of higher interest rates all have direct implications for airlines, maintenance organisations, charter operators, airports and the travelling public.

Aviation is often one of the first industries to feel the effects of global instability, but history has consistently shown that it is also one of the first sectors to stimulate economic recovery. That is why aviation should never be viewed merely as a transport service. It is a strategic national infrastructure.

Commercial aviation facilitates tourism, enables exports, supports business investment, connects regional economies, and provides essential access to healthcare, emergency services, mining operations and remote communities. Every additional route stimulates new economic activity, every aircraft maintained supports highly skilled employment, and every efficient airport strengthens South Africa's competitiveness as a regional business hub. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in air cargo.



While passenger travel often captures public attention, cargo operations quietly sustain supply chains that keep our economy functioning.

High-value manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, perishables, mining equipment and time-sensitive exports all depend on reliable, efficient air freight. Improving customs processes, reducing administrative bottlenecks and investing in modern cargo infrastructure will have an immediate multiplier effect across numerous sectors of the economy.

Equally encouraging is the rapid growth in unmanned aviation globally, while South Africa is unfortunately falling behind due to slow regulatory reforms and bureaucratic implementation. The significant increase in imports of larger drone systems recorded during the first quarter of 2026 reflects the emergence of new commercial opportunities in agriculture, mining, infrastructure inspection, environmental management and logistics.

These technologies are not replacing traditional aviation—they are expanding the industry's economic footprint and creating entirely new career pathways.

For South Africa and the broader Sub-Saharan region, the long-term fundamentals remain exceptionally positive.

Africa is projected to be one of the fastest-growing aviation markets over the coming decades. Population growth, increasing urbanisation, expanding middle-income households, implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and greater regional connectivity all point towards sustained demand for commercial aviation services.

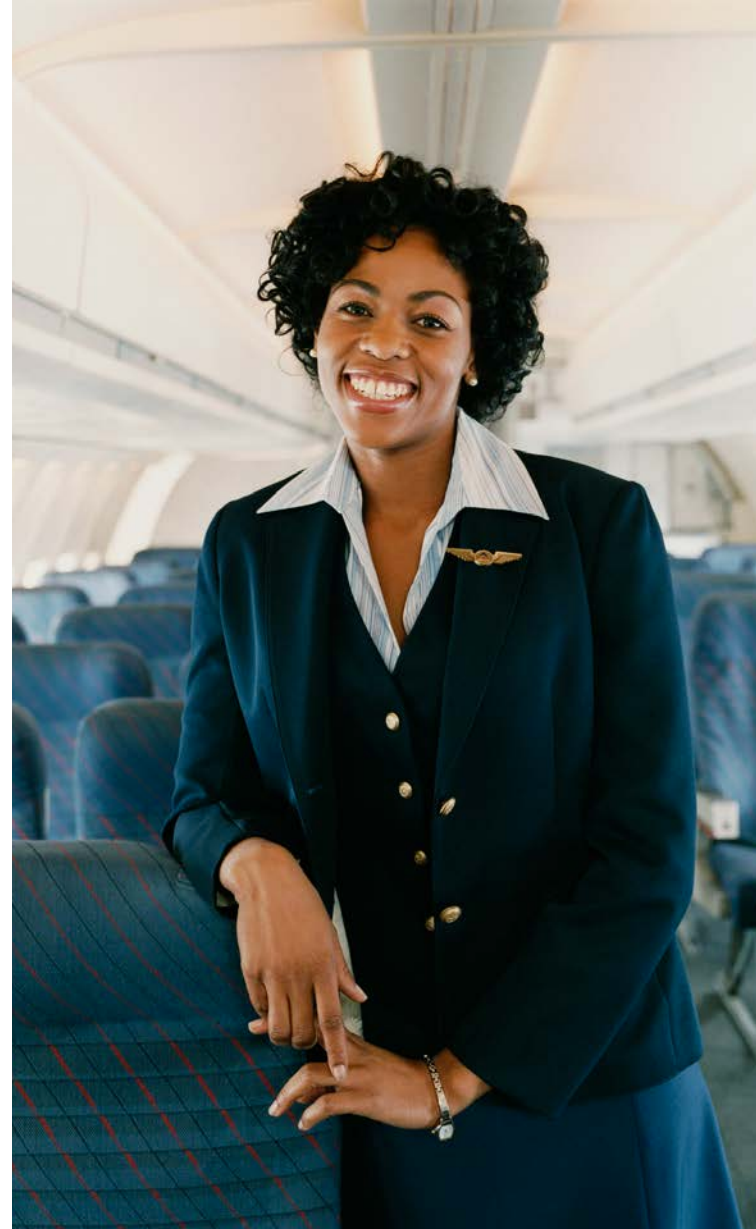
Realising this potential, however, depends on two critical ingredients: policy certainty and the regulator and DOT changing focus from ICAO safety performance and their global ranking to their primary responsibility to provide a fair and simple system clearly delivering cost effective structure for economic and operator growth.

Investment follows confidence. Aircraft acquisitions, maintenance facilities, airport infrastructure and aviation training all require long-term planning and substantial capital investment. Investors need confidence that regulatory systems will remain predictable, proportionate, and efficient. Operators need certainty that infrastructure will be maintained, licensing processes will be timely, and policy decisions will support rather than constrain growth.

This has remained a consistent position of CAASA.

A thriving aviation sector requires collaboration between government, regulators, airports, operators, training institutions, and industry associations. It requires investment in regional airports, support for general and commercial aviation alike, and a regulatory environment that maintains the highest standards of safety while enabling innovation and sustainable growth.

Most importantly, it requires recognising aviation for what it truly is—not simply an industry, but an enabler of virtually every other sector of the economy.



When aviation grows, tourism grows.
Trade grows. Investment grows.
Employment grows. Communities
become more connected.
Opportunities expand for young South
Africans entering aviation careers.

At CAASA, we remain optimistic about the future. While global headwinds will continue to test our resilience, the underlying demand for aviation across Southern Africa remains strong. Our collective responsibility is to ensure that the policy environment, infrastructure, and investment climate allow that demand to translate into sustainable economic growth.

Commercial aviation is far more than aircraft in the sky. It is the artery through which economic opportunity flows.

As we continue engaging with government, industry partners and investors, CAASA remains committed to advocating for an aviation sector that is safe, competitive, innovative and positioned to unlock South Africa's full economic potential.

Because when aviation succeeds, South Africa succeeds.



– Kevin Storie, CEO

AFRICA'S GATEWAY TO THE GLOBAL DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE COLLABORATION



16 - 20 SEPT

#AAD2026

AFRICA'S PREMIER AEROSPACE & DEFENCE EXHIBITION

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SUPPORTED BY:



HOST CITY:





AFRICA'S GATEWAY TO THE GLOBAL DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE COLLABORATION

REGISTRATIONS FOR TRADE VISITORS AND MEDIA NOW OPEN

As we gear up for AAD2026, our enthusiasm is building as we see every element of an engaging and exhilarating aerospace and defence trade exhibition and air show coming together for what is expected to be the best yet!

We are thrilled to announce that registration is now open for trade visitors and media. As the largest trade and air show in Africa, this year's event is set to attract over 30,000 trade visitors who will have the opportunity to engage with more than 300 exhibitors from the aerospace and defence sectors.

If you are in the media and looking forward to covering this much-anticipated Aerospace and Defence event, now is your time!

The trade exhibition will span three days (18 to 20 September 2024), providing ample opportunity for industry professionals to engage, network, and explore the latest advancements in aerospace and defence technology and services.

[REGISTER AS A TRADE VISITOR](#)

[REGISTER AS MEDIA](#)

- The media accreditation registrations will close on 11 September 2026.
- Sending an application does not automatically guarantee that a media accreditation will be issued.
- All applications are subject to confirmation. Confirmation will NOT be on a first-come, first-served basis. Successful applicants will be notified and provided with further information in due course.





PUBLIC AIR SHOW TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE AT TICKET PRO

Tickets to the #AAD2026 public air show are now available at TicketPro and selected retail outlet nation wide.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY YOUR TICKET NOW](#)

Pick n Pay

SPAR



AAD2026 To Feature 3 Conference in 3 Days

IT IS NOT JUST AN EXHIBITION, IT IS A PLATFORM THAT FOSTERS DIALOGUES

Conferences are an important component of international aviation, defence and security exhibitions worldwide and the South African contribution, AAD, is no different. From 16 - 18 September 2026, AAD will feature three conferences that will cover three distinct themes over their duration.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE](#)



Official AAD 2026 AIRLINE PARTNER

Travel to AAD 2026 with up to 15% off applicable Kenya Airways fares to Johannesburg (JNB) from 13 origin cities across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the USA.

Booking Period: 20 July – 20 September 2026

Travel Period: 10 – 26 September 2026

Book directly on **KQ.com** using the promo code AAE26 to take advantage of this exclusive delegate offer

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK DIRECTLY](#)

Terms & Conditions: Discount applies to applicable fares only and is subject to Kenya Airways' standard booking terms and conditions.

AAD2026 offers three official platforms to extend your brand beyond the stand. Each reaches a distinct but complementary audience - in hand and on screen. Giving you continuous brand visibility.

AAD 2026 SHOW DAILY

Produced by DefenceWeb

Published across the show days, the AAD 2026 Show Daily is the official daily print magazine of the exhibition - produced by DefenceWeb, Africa's leading defence news portal. For rates and availability, contact Robert Mace

robert@defenceweb.com



AAD 2026 EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Produced by Creative Space Media

The official AAD 2026 Exhibition Catalogue is the definitive reference document of the show - A5, 150-page full-colour publication distributed to 10,000 targeted delegates, including VIP delegation packs and media kits. For rates and availability, contact James james@creativespacemedia.co.za

AAD TV

Powered by Smart Digital

AAD TV is the official onsite digital screen network for AAD 2026, broadcasting simultaneously across strategically positioned screens covering every major zone of AFB Waterkloof for the full five-day show. For rates and availability, contact Mark Bridges mark.bridges@smart-digital.co.uk



HOTEL PARTNERS

Whether you're exhibiting, attending meetings, or enjoying the air show, finding the right accommodation is essential. We have partnered with leading hotels to ensure your stay is as exceptional as your AAD experience. Secure your accommodation early and enjoy a comfortable stay, exclusive rates, and convenient access to Africa's premier aerospace and defence exhibition.



Enjoy special discounted rates when you book your stay by using the promotional code:

#AAD2026

FRIENDLY REMINDERS TO ALL EXHIBITORS

Please take note of the service providers available to meet all your various requirements and ensure smooth implementation.

SERVICE	NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
General Services Expo Solutions	Craig McDonald	+27 (0) 83 326 5767	Craigm@exposolutions.co.za
FR Meyer's Sohn	Estelle Pienaar	Estelle: +27 (0) 72 583 3270	estelle.pienaar@fms-logistics.co.za
	Nico Troostheide	Nico: +27 (0) 83 628 6768	nico.troostheide@fms-logistics.co.za
Show Daily	Robert Mace	+27 (0) 82 458 3599	Robert@defencweb.co.za
Sanitation			martinhuse@sanitech.co.za
Security Services and OHS	Thulani Skondela		thulani@lodgevents.co.za
Event Catalogue	Sizwe Zim	+27 (0) 11 467 3341 / +27 (0) 82 762 2010	sizwe@creativespacemedia.co.za
Conferences and Seminars	Robert Mace	+27 (0) 82 458 3599	Robert@defencweb.co.za
Catering Services	Malcolm Tait	+27 (0) 76 332 1313	malcolm@maineventcatering.co.za
Golf Carts	Arlene Lane		book@zenevents.co.za

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW TECHNICAL GUIDE](#)

Dear Exhibitors,

We kindly remind you that all payments should be completed by no later than 14 August 2026.

To ensure a smooth transaction, please use the correct banking details provided on your invoice.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to our finance team at finance@aadexpo.co.za / finasasat@aadexpo.co.za

Important dates TO KEEP IN MIND!

To make it easier for our exhibitors to plan their participation at AAD 2026, please see below for an easy breakdown of important dates.

16 - 18 SEPT 2026

TRADE DAYS & CONFERCING

19 - 20 SEPT 2026

PUBLIC AIR SHOW DAYS

**STAY TUNED TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS
FOR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!**



PARTNERS:  **AMD**
ARMED AND DANGEROUS

 **ARMSCOR**
ARMED AND DANGEROUS

 **CASA**

 **defence**
Department of Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPPORTED BY:

 **the dtic**
Department of Trade and Consumer
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

HOST CITY:

 **DURBAN**

Receptionist / Admin Clerk

Responsibilities

- Welcoming and assisting customers and course candidates and directing them
- Managing meals for students, staff and functions
- Student file management before, during and after course commencement
- Assisting candidates and instructors with SEAMS
- Photocopying, binding and filing
- Archiving student material older than a year
- Driving for business related issues, if necessary
- Making sure all course material is in stock and is ordered if need be
- Ordering of stationery and groceries
- Creation of documents as instructed
- Managing the currency of the syllabi and training material
- Update CATS and CARS and AIPS if needed

Skills & attributes

- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel
- Proficient in SEAMS
- Knowledge of Air law will be an advantage
- The holder of a PPL license
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent telephone etiquette
- Work well within a team environment
- Customer service orientated
- Be well organised and be able to work under pressure
- A Holder of a driver's license
- Professional appearance
- A non-smoker

Hours
Flexible

Location
Office-based

Submit your CV

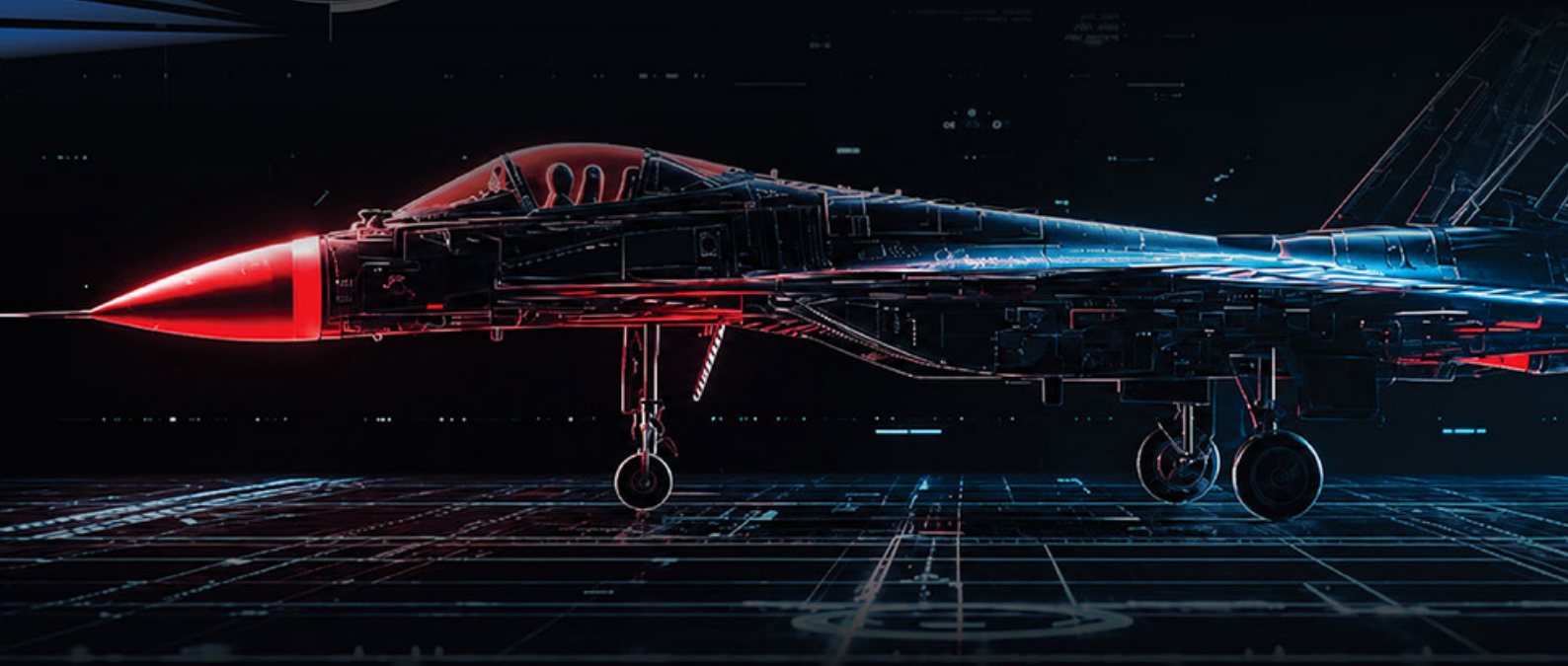
[Click here to apply](#)



AAD 2026

CONFERENCE

16-18 SEPT 2026



EXCLUSIVE MEMBER OFFER

AAD 2026 CONFERENCE

Offer Available exclusively to
eligible **CAASA** members.



R1,995
excl. VAT

SAVE R855
on the standard
conference
fee.

Reserve your ticket today.

AfBAA launches first phase of groundbreaking research to improve understanding of business aviation in Africa.

The African Business Aviation Association, AfBAA, has announced the launch of a landmark research project that aims to advance the understanding, perception, and knowledge of the sector across the African continent.

The first phase of the multi-phase initiative has already begun, with the initial results anticipated to be presented at the Aviation Africa event in Nairobi, Kenya, on 9-10 September 2026.

The research, conducted by independent behavioral economics and strategic marketing research consultancy Seefeld Group, is designed to deliver the most comprehensive, data-driven view of business aviation across the continent to date.

Under the guidance of Charles Porteous, the company's President, the much-needed study aims to gather a unified dataset that will subsequently be used by the Association to better understand business aviation in Africa, provide valuable information for AfBAA members, and attract new members to the organization.

The research, initiated by the current AfBAA executive, will ultimately clarify the state of the industry in contemporary Africa.

"This type of research is long overdue for our members and those seeking to operate effectively in Africa. We anticipate that the data will provide foundations for smarter investment, create platforms from which to increase advocacy, enhance safety, and enable more resilient operations and business longevity," says Dawit Lemma, Chairperson AfBAA.



"The initiative will aggregate and analyze raw data to avoid bias and negative perception and will contest existing information that is often fragmented, nominally anecdotal, and frequently based on perception, not reality. The holistic approach will look not just at which types of aircraft are flying which routes, but also at what they are doing and how business aviation activity affects economies.

"This is the type of information members can use to make informed decisions about future operational activity. We're extremely pleased to be working with Seefeld Group, which is renowned for its professionalism, business aviation heritage, and insightful analysis, and are excited that our members will have access to this invaluable, rich resource."

The first phase, an iterative, data-first technical approach, will comprise fleet, economic, and maintenance analyses, as well as a comprehensive review of media perceptions of the industry.

The research will encompass non-scheduled aviation activity, including business jets, turboprops, and helicopters, as well as UAVs, reflecting the broad scope of the AfBAA membership.

Porteous adds, "Africa represents one of the most dynamic yet least understood business aviation markets in the world. Seefeld Group is honoured to be selected to provide AfBAA, operators, and policymakers with credible, data-driven insight that supports better decision-making, stronger advocacy, and long-term sector growth through a deeper understanding of fleet composition, operational activity, and how business aviation is utilized across the continent."

Data sourcing, analysis, and provision are key focuses for AfBAA as it continues to raise the visibility of business aviation in Africa, deliver even greater value to existing and new members, and engage with influential industry organizations across the globe as Lemma and his team deliver on their commitment to strengthen business aviation across Africa.



CAASA MEMBERSHIP

Your voice. Your industry. Your association.

Join the Unified Voice for Aviation in Southern Africa

For more than 80 years, CAASA has represented, protected, and advanced the interests of commercial and general aviation across Southern Africa.

When regulatory changes arise, industry challenges emerge, or critical decisions are being made, CAASA ensures that the aviation industry's voice is heard at the highest levels.

As a member, you gain access to:

- Industry representation and advocacy
- Direct engagement with government, regulators, and key stakeholders
- Expert guidance on regulatory, operational, legal, and industry matters
- Networking opportunities with aviation professionals and decision-makers
- Exclusive member communications, industry updates, and newsletters
- Opportunities to promote your business through CAASA channels
- Member discounts and benefits at industry events, including AAD and selected aviation conferences
- Access to a powerful network spanning operators, AMOs, flight training organisations, helicopter operators, airports, unmanned aviation, safety professionals, and aviation service providers

CAASA is more than an association.

It is a collective of aviation businesses and professionals working together to protect the future of our industry.

Whether you operate aircraft, maintain them, train pilots, support aviation operations, or provide aviation-related services, your business belongs at the table.

Stronger Together. Stronger Aviation.

Join CAASA today and become part of the organisation that has been championing aviation since 1944.

Melissa Sewgolam

melissa@caasa.co.za
+27 (0)82 847 3403



Who represents your business when aviation policy changes?

CAASA works to protect and advance the interests of aviation operators and businesses across Southern Africa.

Be part of aviation
leadership

Melissa Sewgolam

+27 82 847 3403

melissa@caasa.co.za



COME FLY WITH US

Get involved with our monthly newsletter

With 80+ years of legacy and reputation, your contribution can only help us foster growth in your business and across our critically important aviation sector.

Get involved and reap the benefits of getting your business in front of curated, aviation-focused peers pro bono!

All we need from you

01

Your company logo
(JPG / PNG / PDF)

02

Company overview, products & services
(Long or short-form)

03

Significant milestones & supporting images
(JPG / PNG / PDF)

04

Contact details
(Including website address & social media)

Reach out to our General Manager,
Melissa Sewgolam

melissa@caasa.co.za