

MEDIA STATEMENT

WRENELLE STANDER APPOINTED AS AASA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

01 July 2021, Johannesburg – The Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA), announces that Wrenelle Stander has been appointed as its new Chief Executive Officer, with effect from mid-July 2021

Ms Stander takes over the reins from Chris Zweigenthal who is retiring from the industry body he has served with distinction for over 19 years.

“Wrenelle, whose career includes extensive leadership experience in the public and private sectors of the air transport and energy industries as well as in the South African Government, is the ideal choice to lead AASA and represent its members in its engagements on matters of common interest. As a former AASA chairperson, she is also familiar with the association and the kinds of issues it takes up,” said Mr Zweigenthal

“Finding the *sweet spot* in the nexus between government and industry is the thread that has strung together my various roles in the energy and aviation industries and one that is crucial to the vital role that AASA fulfils in representing the air transport industry throughout the Southern African Development Community region,” explained Ms Stander

“Wrenelle is widely respected throughout the Southern African air transport industry and her ability to navigate and further enhance our relationships with all stakeholders will be a tremendous asset for AASA and our industry, especially as we grapple with the slow and painful recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating impact that related travel restrictions have had for air transport, tourism, trade, jobs and livelihoods in our region,” said AASA Chairperson, Elmar Conradie.

Prior to joining AASA, Ms Stander, who holds an MBA from Oxford Brookes University in the UK and a BA (Hons) from the University of Cape Town, held a number of key executive positions including CEO of Comair, Managing Director of South Africa’s Air Traffic Navigation Service (ATNS) and Sasol’s Gas business. She also held executive and non-executive directorships on various boards. Ms Stander began her career in South Africa’s National Department of Transport where rose to become Chief Director Aviation and Maritime Regulation and also served as Deputy CEO of the SA Civil Aviation Authority. *(For more information, please see the attached biographical note.)*

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About AASA

AASA, represents most of the airlines in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region on matters of common interest. Its members include airport and air navigation service operators, aircraft and engine manufacturers, ground handlers, fuel suppliers and other role-players across the air transport value chain.

Issued on behalf of AASA

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