

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Jet fuel rationing at Cape Town International Airport

9 December 2024, Johannesburg – The Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA) notes with grave concern the failure of the main valve in the refuelling system at O.R. Tambo International Airport today, causing lengthy delays and cancelled flights at the start of the summer peak holiday travel season.

“Although AASA appreciates the efforts being made by the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) to restore fuel supplies at what is Southern Africa’s busiest air travel and air cargo gateway, we urge ACSA to expedite the installation of the back-up bypass line that was promised as part of the fuel supply resilience plan after the previous main supply valve failure in December 2022,” said AASA CEO, Aaron Munetsi.

In the meantime, our local and regional short-haul member airlines are doing whatever they can to mitigate the impact of today’s disruptions. Some have been able to tanker extra fuel (i.e. carry more than optimally required for a single flight) on flights to Johannesburg, but because all of the aircraft parking bays are occupied, many arriving aircraft have been directed to park on taxiways and await busses to disembark their passengers and unload baggage. At least one flight was able to take off from OR Tambo and fly, via Lanseria to refuel, to Cape Town. Although ACSA has temporarily opened the fuel line, there is a very long backlog of flights to be refuelled.

#### About AASA

AASA represents most of the airlines in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) bloc on matters of common interest relating to government policies, legislation, regulations, planning, operational efficiency, safety, security, taxes, charges, and other matters affecting its Members’ sustainability, and the provision of affordable and accessible air transport throughout the region.

AASA was established in 1970 and currently has 17 [Airline Members](#) and 35 [Associate Members](#), including infrastructure service providers, aircraft and engine manufacturers and other industry suppliers, ground handling companies and allied industry bodies.

AASA is a participant and contributor to the [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#) and the [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) forums and supports their initiatives in the region.

#### Media queries

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