

STATEMENT ON RECENT REPORTS CONCERNING AVIATION REGULATION AND TRAINING

The Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji (CAAF) has noted recent claims in the media concerning aviation regulation and training. While these claims are inaccurate, CAAF acknowledges the genuine concerns of students, families and stakeholders, and reassures the public that CAAF will continue to exercise its statutory mandate to protect the safety of all.

CAAF understands that these are frustrating times for students who await completion of their training. These young people are the future of Fiji's aviation industry, and their aspirations matter. However, CAAF cannot place lives at risk by bypassing required processes that ensure aircraft are fully airworthy and safe.

As Fiji's national aviation regulator, our duty is to ensure that aviation operates at the highest standards of safety, security, integrity, and compliance. These standards are **non-negotiable** because they protect lives, sustain livelihoods, and safeguard Fiji's reputation and standing as a trusted participant and respected contributor to the national, regional and global aviation community. CAAF cannot compromise on the safety standards and the requirements which stakeholders are required to follow and comply with. Any compromise would have serious consequences not only for students and operators, but also for the thousands of people whose lives are connected to aviation.

Addressing Concerns

Q Supporting Students – CAAF reaffirms its commitment to supporting students in their aviation training journey. CAAF's foremost responsibility is to ensure that all training is conducted in a safe, fair, and internationally compliant environment. We assure the students and their families that every decision made by CAAF is guided by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, with safety remaining at the heart of all aviation training in Fiji. Students and Operators are encouraged to raise any concerns directly with CAAF, knowing that every case is treated fairly.

Q Modernising Regulations – The forthcoming Civil Aviation Bill will further strengthen Fiji's aviation framework by modernising our laws, harmonising them with regional approaches, and aligning them with ICAO standards. These reforms will deliver clearer, more consistent requirements for all, reinforcing Fiji's strong record of safe, transparent, and internationally recognised aviation oversight.

Q Transparency & Engagement – Checklists and guidance material are publicly available via the CAAF website. Quarterly forums and confidential channels support open dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders.

Q Oversight & Audits – We endeavour to be efficient in how oversight inspections and audits are conducted and are working to implement a performance-based oversight approach, benchmarked against international best practice.

Q Service delivery – CAAF's officers are qualified, trained and committed to deliver the functions of CAAF efficiently. Through its officers, CAAF will continue to uphold aviation safety and security to ensure compliance across industry. Their work protects operators and the public and cannot be compromised under any circumstance.

Trusted, Proven, Respected

Fiji's aviation safety oversight has been independently validated by ICAO, with an Effective Implementation score of 76.2%, well above the Asia-Pacific average (67.2%) and the global average (70.5%). This places Fiji among the stronger aviation oversight systems worldwide. ICAO's decision to establish the ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Liaison Office in Fiji further reflects international confidence in Fiji's aviation system.

CAAF will work with students, training organisations, and all industry stakeholders to ensure aviation in Fiji is regulated fairly, transparently, and above all, safely. Our shared responsibility is to uphold these standards for the benefit and safety of all.

Our guiding principle remains clear
SAFE SKIES, SECURE FIJI