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**RECOGNISING SAFETY EXCELLENCE IN AFRICAN AVIATION**

**Cape Town, South Africa, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 —**

Today the AviAssist Foundation proudly celebrated air transportation safety in Africa by announcing the winner of the 2012 African Aviator Award. This year, the AviAssist Foundation selected the Air Traffic Management/Control as the profession for the award, in co-operation with the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation CANSO.

“Despite regular press reports on accidents such as the global coverage on the crash in Nigeria in June this year, air transport is one of the safest modes of transport, *also in Africa*” says AviAssist director Tom Kok.

Every day, thousands of professionals in Africa contribute to making commercial aviation the safest form of transportation. They do so not because they expect special recognition. They think safety and act in ways that promote safety because they know the aviation industry depends on it, and because it is the right thing to do. However, aggregate data for the entire continent masks the gains from their professionalism and the role of safety champions among them. The AviAssist Foundation pays tribute to them through its work.

“The African Aviator Award is presented annually for an exceptional dedication to African aviation safety over an extended period of time” explained Kok. “Working together with our partners such as CANSO is essential for the Foundation to ensure that we can continue to work with the region on improving safety in the years ahead. This year’s recipient Daniel Wanjala is a worthy recipient of this award. As an air traffic management inspector with the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, he has had great success in building better understanding between professionals in the aviation industry. One of his key achievements was building a flight deck familiarization program for air traffic controllers,” stated Kok. “Professionals like Wanjala are enabling us to raise the bar for aviation safety and I’m very pleased to be able to present it to him today,” Kok continued.

The award was presented to Mr. Wanjala today at the CANSO Global ATM Safety conference galadinner in Cape Town, hosted by South Africa’s air traffic control organisation ATNS and sponsored by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

For more details on the winner, visit the news section of the Foundation’s website.

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**The AviAssist Foundation** is an independent, non-profit organization that provides safety support to African countries and companies and aims to inspire and promote professionalism in African aviation safety. It does so in close coordination with ICAO, stakeholders and safety support providers as part of the Flight Safety Foundation family. More at [www.aviassist.org](http://www.aviassist.org)