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Foundation arranges aviation inspectors course for Zambia

Hoofddorp, Netherlands, 5th October, 2009 —

The AviAssist Foundation was instrumental in getting an ICAO endorsed Government Safety Inspectors course to Zambia. The course is conducted by instructors from the Netherlands Aviation College (NLC) from the Netherlands. It is normally taught at the NLC facilities in Hoofddorp. The NLC is one of only 8 training centres worldwide that is endorsed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to provide these critical courses.

To further improve its already good standing with the aviation industry, the Zambian Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) invited a number of senior pilots from operators to the course to increase their appreciation for the DCA's responsibilities.

The Zambian Permanent Secretary of Communications and Transport Mr. Dominic Sichinga today opened the course in Lusaka, Zambia. "The workshop is part of the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) to ensure it meets its international (ICAO) aviation safety oversight obligations" stated Permanent Secretary Sichinga. "The GRZ is working hard on implementing a corrective action plan to meet shortfalls that came up in the 2009 ICAO audit of Zambia. The action plan forms the roadmap for meeting the ICAO standards and, from there, getting Zambia removed from the EU blacklist on aviation. This course in turn is an important ingredient of that roadmap."

"One of the major findings of the ICAO Safety Oversight Audit program is that there is a significant shortage of qualified and experienced Government Safety Inspectors (GSI) in many states. Most states only need a limited number of inspectors. Establishment of specific training centres at a national level may therefore not be economical. The Netherlands holds a valuable instrument with having one of those centres in Hoofddorp" explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. "The efforts to bring this course to Zambia are part of the Foundation's campaign to make best safety practices available to aviation professionals in this region. It is encouraging to see that the GRZ, through its Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), shows increased commitment to its safety oversight responsibilities by paying for this course to come to Zambia. In that way, many more Zambian safety oversight officers can be trained. On top of that, Zambia continues to show regional leadership by opening up the course to other states from the region. This is a promising development given efforts that are underway to come to regional co-operation on certain elements of aviation safety oversight. In fact, the AviAssist Foundation assisted the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) in organised a symposium on Regional Aviation Safety Agencies that was hosted by the GRZ in July this year".

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The AviAssist Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization. It provides safety support to African countries and companies. As the regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it identifies threats to aviation safety, analyzes the problems and works on practical solutions to them. It aims to replicate safety successes from elsewhere on the African continent and beyond. It does so in close coordination with ICAO, stakeholders and safety support providers. More at www.aviassist.org