

**EMBARGO: 29 July, 2019**

## **CAAB lifts the grounding of 28 Aircraft**

**Gaborone 29th July, 2019:** The Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Botswana (CAAB) has lifted a temporary suspension of 28 Botswana licensed GippsAero GA8 aircraft operations put in place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019 with immediate effect.

The temporary suspension of GA8 aircraft flights was put in place as a safety precaution following a recent fatal parachuting accident in Sweden on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

New information received by CAAB indicates that, there is no evidence of a potential unsafe condition associated with the aircraft. Therefore, the GA8 aircraft type can resume normal operations.

The precautionary suspension was triggered by initial information from the investigation into the Swedish accident which showed the accident aircraft had broken up in flight.

Based on information available immediately after the accident, the 28 GA8 aircraft in Botswana were grounded. Botswana has 7 operators licensed to operate this type aircraft.

CAAB, wishes to express their appreciation for the cooperation received from the 7 Operators who respected the suspension of the Aircraft despite the possible negative impact on their business. **END**

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#### [Our Vision](#)

To be a world class provider of safe, secure and sustainable aviation services

#### [Our Mission](#)

To effectively and efficiently regulate and promote a safe, secure and sustainable aviation industry in line with international standards and norms

#### [Our Values](#)

Integrity | Accountability | Collaboration | Customers Focus | Continuous Improvement

## **EDITORS NOTES**

*This Airworthiness Directive Number **BOT 2019-001** issued on 23 July, 2019 is issued in accordance with the Civil Aviation Act Section 59 relating to power to prevent flight and the Civil Aviation (Airworthiness) Regulations 30 (5) and 31.*

*Australia, the country of manufacture of this type aircraft has told CAAB that their airworthiness engineer is currently observing the accident investigation in Sweden and this has proved to be very beneficial.*

*CASA, has also announced that they will continue to monitor the investigation into the GA8 accident and will take appropriate action should any related safety issues become apparent in the future.*

*Further, they have announced they will be a safety assurance review of Australian parachute operations conducted over coming months.*

*The parachuting accident happened on 14 July 2019 near Umeå in northern Sweden. None of the nine people on board the aircraft survived the accident.*

*The GA8 is manufactured in Australia by GippsAero, which is based in the Latrobe Valley. The GA8 is a single engine high wing aeroplane with fixed tricycle landing gear. In Australia the GA8 is used in a range of operations including charter, aerial work and parachuting.*

## **ABOUT CAAB**

*The Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) is responsible for the regulation and development of air transport, providing air navigation services, managing airports and advising Government on all aspects of civil aviation.*

*It is a Statutory Corporation established by the Civil Aviation Act of 2004, and commenced full operations as an autonomous regulator on 1st April 2009. The continued existence of CAAB was provided for by the Civil Aviation Act, 2011 which repealed the previous Act establishing the Authority. Before its establishment, most of its functions were performed by the former Department of Civil Aviation (DCA).*

*CAAB under its airports management portfolio, is responsible for the operational oversight of Sir Seretse Khama, Kasane, Francistown and Maun International Airports as well as the Selibe-Phikwe and Ghanzi Airport. The Authority is also responsible for strategic airfields dotted*

*across the country, which are essential in cases of emergency rescues and are useful for the tourism sector.*

*In 2016, the CAAB was recognised by the European Union and bequeathed an award by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), both for the Botswana's progress in resolving safety oversight deficiencies and continued improvement of the effective implementation (EI) of applicable ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) ranking Botswana well above the world average.*