

## For immediate Release

### CAAB GROUNDS 28 AIRCRAFT

**GABORONE: 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.** Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana has grounded some 28 Gippsland GA8 Airvan aircraft issued with the Botswana airworthiness certificates with immediate effect.

There are 7 aviation operators affected by this suspension. The GA8 aircraft is Australian made.

The suspension of the airworthiness certificates follows a fatal accident that occurred with a GA8 "Airvan" aeroplane in Sweden on the 14<sup>th</sup> July that killed all 9 people on board.

Based on information coming out of the initial investigation into the crash it appears that the aeroplane, at, 4000M altitude, suffered structural failure, but at this time, the root cause of the accident cannot be confirmed.

CASA Australia, the Authority of State of Design of the affected aircraft, has informed CAAB that a direction CASA 44/19 has been issued, which provides for the temporary prohibition of operations of GA8 airvan in Australia.

Based on all available information and taking into account the Australian direction, CAAB decided to suspend the airworthiness certificates for all registered GA8 aircraft currently operating in Botswana until further notice.

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.

**End.**

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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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

-Ends-

## **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 The continued existence of CAAB was provided for by the Civil Aviation Act, 2011 which repealed the previous Act establishing the Authority.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.*