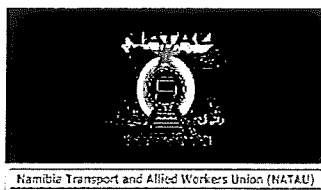


THE JOINT UNION COMMITTEE

- JUC -



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 04 February 2021

To: All members of the media

AIR NAMIBIA PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE UPDATE

We would like to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts by all parties involved in reaching a repayment settlement agreement between Air Namibia and Challenge Air.

Today we stand together not only as unions and employees of Air Namibia, but as ordinary Namibians that are part of this beautiful country. We would also like to demonstrate unity within the aviation sector, both nationally and internationally. As a joint force, we have a responsibility to share our side with the public and the shareholder.

The repayment settlement has not only sparked an outcry from many general Namibians, but also from our shareholder and government of Namibia. As employees we are deeply concerned and would like to know how the government will continue to deal with the airline's situation considering the interest of the workers and the nation at large.

Air Namibia has the infrastructure in place and mostly also the skilled labour that is required. What we want is a more streamlined, transparent, efficient airline, but due to external and internal challenges the airline was unable maximize operational efficiency.

Unfortunately, it has to be said that the government as the main shareholder has been instrumental in the airline's failure. It is clear from the Challenge Air case that the government does not have the appetite nor the political will to rescue the airline from this impasse.

We have to be honest and open on how Air Namibia reached this status, it was by years and years of mismanagement backed by boards of directors that either never understood the aviation business environment or had something to gain on a personal level, as we find ourselves at crossroads.

The problems lie;

- ✓ Political interference in the business operation's and shareholder conflict of interest
- ✓ With the employment of incompetent people into key & critical positions
- ✓ Having unqualified people in a dynamic business environment.

Our call today is to hold the shareholder accountable for role and influence the failure of our national airline.

The airline should be given an exclusive mandate to conduct commercial business free from political interference supported by the correct board of directors and industry experts in key and critical roles. This is very important in order to compete in the highly dynamic and competitive aviation space.

Air Namibia can be reshaped into cheaper model apart from liquidation or the misquoted N\$7 billion. The amount has been exaggerated in order to create negative euphoria towards the airline.

We have everything in place; it just needs to be moulded to perfection. The indirect positive financial and economic impact this airline has, such as direct and indirect job creation, the tourism industry, business investment and many more sectors, can not be sustained by the other so called "private airline" in this country as much as Air Namibia has been doing.

We should not shy away from the A330's used on the Frankfurt route, the route itself is profitable. However, the lease agreements and the underutilization of equipment are contributing factors to the losses incurred. We therefor call on the details of the A330 lease to be made public.

This is where it gets interesting, the government will then have to use the taxpayers money in tune of more than N\$2 Billion to pay to a foreign company with no expectation and return the aircraft. This is just for the A330, is the Namibian public albeit everything the covid has done to the economy willing to see such amount of money paid out to an American company only because there are a few elements within the government that are hell bent to close the airline at any given cost.

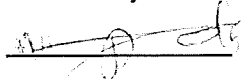
As of current, Air Namibia owns and operates six aircraft which are perfectly capable to contribute to the growth of the airline and explore available networks and potential markets.

We therefore object the closure of the national airline in any form and demand our shareholder to honour the Challenge Air settlement agreement.

Last but not least, the employee representatives at Air Namibia seek an audience with the Cabinet Committee on Treasury on an urgent basis.

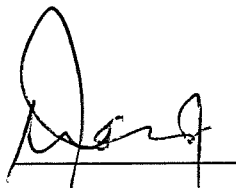
HANDS OFF OUR AIRLINE – SAVE THE NAMIBIAN ECONONMY – SAVE OUR JOBS.

We thank you



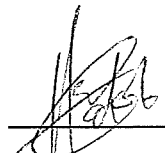
Ms. Ndapewa Amupanda

NATAU: Chairperson



Mr Willem Christiaans

SG: NCCU



Mr Heino Jakob

President: NAPA