



8 October 2015  
For Immediate release

## ATNS CEO ON AIRSPACE SAFETY

**Johannesburg , South Africa** - As Chief Executive Officer of Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Ltd, I have seriously taken note of the recent reported incidents of flight delays that took place at OR Tambo International Airport.

Ours is a very technical and technology-intensive environment. Investigations into this type of incidents are regulated because of a set requirement - to conform to universal quality investigation standards and/or protocols within the aviation industry.

The ORT International Airport situation has since normalized and services have been restored. Capacity for the airport and airspace in the form of Air Traffic Services (ATS), are being delivered as per agreement with airspace users. Communication failure experienced was precipitated by an off-peak period reconfiguration of the control center technical layout - meant to accommodate the installation and commissioning of new equipment. This resulted in a temporary communication intermission.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure South Africans, especially those that are regular users of this mode of transport that at no stage was their safety, or the safety of their kin compromised.

Contrary to reports in the media space and elsewhere of an industrial action by my staff, I want to place it on record that there is/was no such. The regulation and control of air traffic is classified as an essential service and as a result the service delivery by ATNS continues.

We have recently held a two-day Regional Safety Air Traffic Management (ATM) Safety Improvement Workshop, as part of the 2015 October Transport Month activities, to discuss safety issues related to our core operational environment, which is the efficient provision of Air Traffic Services (ATS). Through these focused and continuous dialogues with our stakeholders, we create an environment conducive to jointly manage constraints, inefficiencies, and unforeseen events that affect system capacity. This primarily minimizes negative impacts of any kind of disruptions. Of critical importance is the mitigation of the effects of unforeseen events and situations of reduced capacity and effective, rapid recovery from such.

ATNS/HO/BD24

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**Air Traffic and Navigation  
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We will continuously monitor service delivery efficiency daily to ensure that the overall delays are kept to a minimum - at all times - and that the safety of all flight operations are not compromised.

Ends,

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