CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

ON

ABUSE OF MALAWI CIVIL AIRCRAFT REGISTER

The Republic of Malawi, as a contracting state and signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation since 11th September 1964, has a right to register aircraft and allow operators to operate the aircraft in accordance with international standards. The operations may be domestic or international and Malawi has the obligation to provide oversight of its registered aircraft.

It has, however, come to the attention of the Civil Aviation Authority that the Malawi Civil Aircraft Register has been abused through the registering of aircraft and issuing of illegal permits to operators who have been operating outside Malawi without being monitored by the Civil Aviation Authority. This poses a safety and security risk to the host countries.

As reported in some online media publications, on 18th February 2026, the Federal Republic of Somalia through the Somalia Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) discharged its regulatory duty by grounding a number of aircraft operating in their country. Of these aircraft, five are operated by a Malawian company which is dully registered by the Registrar General of Malawi.

Somalia Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) has formally informed the Malawi Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of the decision to ground the aircraft for safety reasons as the aircraft were not meeting the regulatory requirements. Such regulatory requirements include the non-compliance to provisions of its national regulations on civil aviation operations within their country that ensures the status of the aircraft, engine, propeller or part, conform to its approved design and/or condition for safe operation.

The Malawi Civil Aviation Authority (Authority) hereby informs the general public that it has taken this situation seriously and is in touch with, and cooperating and coordinating with the Somalia Civil Aviation Authority to exchange pertinent information.

The Authority has immediately commenced audit proceedings on all operators which includes reviewing all aviation related authorisations, certificates and licences held by the various companies registered in Malawi.

The Authority has since initiated an investigation into the sources of the illegal aircraft registrations and permits which have shown that some were being facilitated by some officers within the Civil Aviation Authority. The Authority has immediately suspended one officer from the Authority while investigations are still ongoing to address the matters fully.

In addition, the authority is developing measures to ensure that aircraft on Malawi register can only operate outside Malawi according to the Malawi Civil Aviation regulations which require that all aircraft operating outside Malawi should be based and primarily operated in Malawi.

The Public is also informed that in light of the reforms that are being implemented in the aviation sector of Malawi which necessitated creation of the Civil Aviation Authority as the regulator of the civil aviation industry in Malawi, a number of changes in the legal and oversight framework are being implemented in order to address any gaps that were there before. Currently, these are some of the key actions that are being undertaken by the Authority;

i. Establishing a modern regulatory framework that is aligned with the Standards prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which remains ongoing through updating of all civil aviation regulations, procedures and handbooks,

ii. Cooperating and coordinating with other Government institutions that oversee matters of international relations, public security, national defence, anti-money laundering and counter terrorism,

iii. Increasing engagement with our counterpart Civil Aviation Authorities, on matters of checking or proving the validity or accuracy of approvals, authorisations, certificates and licences held by Malawi registered companies. This extends to pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers and cabin crew holding licences issued by the Civil Aviation Authority.

iv. Implementing the full establishment of the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure the authority has adequate Inspectors and support system to fulfil its

mandate. At the same time removing any compromised inspectors within the system.

Lastly, the Board of the Civil Aviation Authority would like to assure the general public and the international community that it will strive to ensure that the Authority facilitates that all operators fully comply with the Standards and Recommended Practices prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization as well as the national regulations on civil aviation to ensure safe operations as well as safety and security to the consumers of aviation services.

Reverend Baxton Maulidi

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

Date:11th March 2026