



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 June 2019 / Johannesburg / South Africa

SAFU Launch: Four years since SA drone regulations introduced, industry comes together to support improvement and advancement

Today, members from across all sectors of South Africa's drone and aviation industry gathered for the launch of the South Africa Federation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SAFU).

With hundreds of drones currently in use across South African skies, and with the industry predicted to hold multibillion-rand potential for economic growth, independent watchdogs for safety and regulation have never been more important.

The end of this month will mark exactly four years since drone regulations (Part 101) were promulgated by the Minister of Transport in 2015. Even though the announcement of these regulations were generally accepted as a necessary and welcome move, the journey to date has often held frustration and inconsistency for many stakeholders and industry role players.

In her announcement of Part 101, Director of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Ms Poppy Khoza said: *"Let us all be reminded that this is the very first attempt at regulating this new industry. Moreover, there are no best practices to benchmark against anywhere in the world."*

As a country and industry, we find ourselves in a unique position; we now have four years of experience in implementing the Part 101 regulations, and it is essential that we use data collected over this period to improve the current legislation, as well as prepare the country for future technological developments related to Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

It is for this reason that SAFU found it necessary to form an industry platform that will engage with the SACAA and other relevant government bodies. This for the drone industry to realise its full potential, to uphold and improve safety and security standards, and for South Africa to reap the benefits of the industry's huge economic potential.

Understandably, drones continue to present challenges for regulators and other government departments which are concerned with safety and security. Whether these risks are real or perceived, they should be addressed in a collaborative manner and with all industry role players critical to this process.

On the 29th of May 2019, the SACAA launched an industry forum (South African RPAS Industry Forum - SARIF) consisting of various industry role players and government departments/entities. SAFU will play a critical role representing industry and assisting this forum with valuable industry data that has been collected since promulgation of drone regulations in 2015.

SAFU looks forward to sharing this journey with all stakeholders and to improve this industry for the benefit of all South Africans.

To become an affiliate, contact SAFU secretariat Dale McErlean secretariat@safuas.co.za or for general enquiries contact us at info@safua.co.za or visit our website www.safuas.co.za

Media Enquiries:

Sam Twala
SAFU Chairman
072 073 6527

Social Media:

Instagram: @SAFederationUAS
Twitter: @SAFederationUAS

About SAFU

The South African Federation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SAFU) is a non-profit Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry federation comprised of organised individual companies and associate members to advance the interests of affiliated companies and the UAS industry in general.

SAFU was established with the purpose of creating a link between regulatory authorities, such as the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), and its members with the intention of growing and shaping the future of the UAS industry. It is the intention of the federation to create a platform where its members share challenges and deliberate on proposed solutions prior to approaching SACAA or any other government department.

SAFU is intended to actively participate in public educational and awareness campaigns, organised and driven by the SACAA or any other government department of interest. We will proactively, through any avenue available to us, develop educational and awareness material to educate the industry and public about drone regulations and improve the general understanding and knowledge of society with regards to Unmanned Aircraft Systems.