



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe – ZWE37988 – Civil Aviation
Act – Civil Aviation Authority of
Zimbabwe – ZANU-PF
23 December 2010

1. Please provide information on the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ), including information relating to its relationship to the government and the ZANU-PF party.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Civil Aviation Act* (1998). It was established on the 1st January 1999 and replaced the Department of Civil Aviation. As stated in summary on the CAAZ internet website, the Act provides for

- establishment of the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe, its objects, functions and powers;
- appointment of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive;
- financing and audit of the Authority;
- investigation of occurrences; and
- implementation of the provisions of the Chicago Convention in Zimbabwe.¹

Section 4 of the Act states that the Authority is a body corporate:

4 Establishment of Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe
There is hereby established an authority, to be known as the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe, which shall be a body corporate capable of suing and being sued in its own name and, subject to this Act, of performing all acts that bodies corporate may by law perform.²

According to the CAAZ website, the organisation's core functions are

- To provide air navigation services.
- To provide airport facilities and services.
- To regulate the aviation industry.

¹ Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe 2008, 'Legislation', Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe website, http://www.caaaz.co.zw//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=39 – Accessed 22 December 2010 - Attachment 1

² Government of Zimbabwe 1998, *Civil Aviation Act*, Act 7/1998, 22/2001, http://www.parlzim.gov.zw/cms/Acts/Title13_COMMUNICATIONS_AND_POWER/CIVIL_AVIATION_ACT_13_16.pdf - Accessed 22 December 2010 - Attachment 2

- To facilitate the provision of air services.
- To advise the Government on all civil aviation matters.³

The Act provides that the Authority will have a Board and that it must report to the responsible Minister by way of an annual report containing a five year plan and other information. The Board is required to consider and where appropriate give effect to directions ‘of a general character relating to the policy which the Authority is to observe in the exercise of its functions, as the Minister considers to be requisite in the national interest’.⁴

The Act does not permit a Member of Parliament or a person who is a member of two or more other statutory bodies to be appointed as a Board member.⁵

The Board has no defined relationship to any political party, including the ZANU-PF, nor is one provided for in the *Civil Aviation Act*.

A search of sources was unable to find copies of any Authority annual report. No recent reports were found of relevance that indicated that there was anything irregular about the relationship between the Authority and the Zimbabwean government. The CAAZ chief executive officer, David Chawota, has recently been in a number of news reports, having informed a parliamentary committee that the Authority was in severe financial difficulty, and that its communication and surveillance systems long overdue for replacement. Some international airlines avoid Harare due to the poor airport infrastructure.⁶

In 2009 at least two Air Zimbabwe and South African Airways flights had to be diverted to Bulawayo due to electricity outages and the consequent failure of landing systems.⁷ The Minister for Transport, Communication and Infrastructural Development jointly with the Acting CEO of CAAZ indicated in December 2010 that upgrading of infrastructure including runways at Harare International Airport was being supported, including through funds provided in the government’s 2010 budget. Air navigation and communication systems at other airports were also scheduled for replacement.⁸

Attachments

1. Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe 2008, ‘Legislation’, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe website,

³ Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe 2008, ‘Mandate’, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe website, http://www.caaz.co.zw//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=71 – Accessed 22 December 2010 - Attachment 3

⁴ Government of Zimbabwe 1998, *Civil Aviation Act*, Act 7/1998, 22/2001, http://www.parlzim.gov.zw/cms/Acts/Title13_COMMUNICATIONS_AND_POWER/CIVIL_AVIATION_ACT_13_16.pdf - Accessed 22 December 2010, Section 7 – Attachment 2

⁵ Section 11 of the *Act* (‘Disqualifications for appointment to Board’).

⁶ ‘Zim skies threat to world’s aircraft; 2010, *Sunday Times*, 31 October - Attachment 4

⁷ ‘Air Zim flight diverted after power cuts’ 2009, *Zimbabwe Independent*, <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/24083-air-zim-flight-diverted-after-power-cuts.html> - Accessed 22 December 2010 - Attachment 5

⁸ ‘Zimbabwe: Nation marks 68th Civil Aviation Day’, 2010, All Africa [source: *The Herald*], <http://allafrica.com/stories/201012080026.html> - Accessed 23 December 2010 - Attachment 6

- http://www.caa.z.co.zw//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=39 – Accessed 22 December 2010.
2. Government of Zimbabwe 1998, *Civil Aviation Act*, Act 7/1998, 22/2001, http://www.parl.zim.gov.zw/cms/Acts/Title13_COMMUNICATIONS_AND_POWER/CIVIL_AVIATION_ACT_13_16.pdf - Accessed 22 December 2010.
 3. Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe 2008, 'Mandate', Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe website, http://www.caa.z.co.zw//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=71 – Accessed 22 December 2010.
 4. 'Zim skies threat to world's aircraft; 2010, *Sunday Times*, 31 October. (FACTIVA)
 5. 'Air Zim flight diverted after power cuts' 2009, *Zimbabwe Independent*, <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/24083-air-zim-flight-diverted-after-power-cuts.html> - Accessed 22 December 2010.
 6. 'Zimbabwe: Nation marks 68th Civil Aviation Day', 2010, All Africa [source: *The Herald*], <http://allafrica.com/stories/201012080026.html> - Accessed 23 December 2010.