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THE STRIKE SUSPENDED, USYCAA CONFIRMS ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE CALM AND RESPONSIBLE DIALOGUE

It took the great mobilization of Friday, September 23, 2022, assiduously followed by 716 Air Traffic Controllers (94.12% of the workforce), for the ASECNA General Management to finally resolve, after instructions from the political authorities of the member countries to open frank and sincere discussions on the 8 critical points of claims of Air Traffic Controllers.

USYCAA regrets that the clumsy and risky management of this crisis, maintained by the ASECNA administration for reasons hitherto unknown, led to a significant disruption of 87.65% of flights during the day of 23 September in the airspace under its responsibility.

During this widespread frustration, monitored in 39 control towers and 12 Regional Control Centers (CCR) in the 17 countries, the Union noted that ASECNA refused, at its own risk and peril, the exercise of the minimum service yet provided for by the regulatory texts in times of strike. Thus, the Air Traffic Controllers were denied access to the control rooms. Some were kidnapped and temporarily kept in custody.

They have been replaced by various profiles (retired controllers, administrative executives, ramp office agents, etc.) with no experience and qualifications for the position, thus trampling on the very demanding licensing regulations.

In this critical context, some airlines have taken it upon themselves to jeopardize the safety of their passengers and goods. A report states that an Ethiopian Airlines flight departing from Ouagadougou took off from runway 22 at around 9:30 a.m., without providing a control service. Similar and repetitive facts have been observed in other areas, notably at the initiative of four airlines: two African and two European.

After the involvement of the highest political authorities of the various countries, the time is now for negotiations and appeasement. ASECNA air traffic controllers now want to ignore the verbal attacks of which they have been victims, the Director general, having described them, in a recent inflammatory administrative note, as *"agents led astray by the lure of profit and who believe themselves to be indispensable"*. And to affirm in a defamatory way that they are *"supported by international lobbies and an organization competitor"*.

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Email: usycaa@gmail.com Phone: +221765008290 / +225 0709216639



The suspension of the strike slogan, initially for a period of 10 days, then extended until 20 October at the request of the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers for constraints on timetables, clearly demonstrates this manifest and responsible desire to see open sincere negotiations and achieve concrete and conciliatory results.

The Union would like to recall that its 8 critical demands, pending for several years and constantly put on the discussion table, are essentially related to the strengthening of operational capacities, the professional development and the career plan of the ASECNA Air Traffic Controller. . Three essential pillars which have continued to dangerously crumble since the arrival of the Director General in 2017, who has chosen a hostile approach vis-à-vis the corporation of Air Traffic Controllers, whose essence of the function instead requires Concentration and Serenity. Unfortunately, Aviation Safety does not tolerate noise.

The USYCAA Executive Office reassures its base that it will be vigilant as to the conciliatory outcome of its demands and will continue its work of defending the entire profession.

About.

USYCAA is an apolitical non-profit trade union organization, created on October 25, 2018 during the founding congress held at the Treichville Labor Exchange in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The aim of the Union is to promote the safety, efficiency and regularity of

air navigation in the airspaces of ASECNA member states through the improvement of the working conditions of air traffic controllers.

Contacts/ Email: usycaa@gmail.com

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