



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

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**TO: NEWS EDITORS  
ALL MEDIA**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

**CLARIFICATION REGARDING RECLASSIFY FYM 401 AS MILITARY  
OPERATING AREA**

The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) noted the concerns that have been raised by members of the aviation community regarding the proposal to reclassify the FYM 401 as Military Operating Area in Erongo Region. It is important to clarify that the matter currently under discussion is a proposal for airspace reclassification which has been formally submitted to the National Airspace Committee (NAirC) for consideration. The National Airspace Committee is the recognised national body responsible for the management of Namibia's airspace and includes representatives from all key aviation stakeholders, including civil aviation authorities, air traffic management, the aviation industry, and relevant government institutions.

This approach is consistent with international aviation standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which provides that States must organise and regulate their airspace in a manner that ensures the safe and efficient use of airspace by both civil and military operators. ICAO guidance recognises the legitimacy of establishing restricted or prohibited airspace over sensitive military installations and training areas where civilian aircraft operations could pose safety or security risks.

At the national level, Namibia's airspace is regulated through the Namibian Civil Aviation Regulations (NAMCARS) and related Aeronautical Information Publications (AIP). These regulations provide mechanisms through which military airspace can be established, modified, or reclassified in coordination with the civil aviation community through the NAirC framework. The current proposal therefore, falls within the existing legal and regulatory structures governing the management of Namibian airspace.

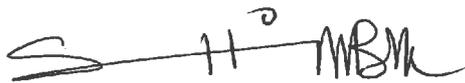
Furthermore, the Namibian Constitution places a responsibility on the State to safeguard national sovereignty and security while simultaneously promoting economic development and the well-being of its citizens. In this context, the responsible management of national airspace must strike a careful balance between national security requirements and the continued growth of civilian aviation activities.

The extraordinary National Airspace Committee meeting scheduled for 25 March 2026 will bring together all stakeholders to examine the proposal in detail and determine a practical modality that ensures the continued protection of Namibia's aviation industry while safeguarding the operational integrity of military activities conducted in the area.

The NDF remains committed to working constructively with the aviation industry and other stakeholders to ensure that Namibia's airspace is managed collaboratively, responsibly, and in the national interest. Airspace is a shared national resource that must be protected through coordinated efforts. Military operations and civilian aviation must therefore, operate in mutual harmony and flexibility, ensuring that neither sector unnecessarily frustrates the other.

In an era where the operational use of military airspace is rapidly evolving and where aviation activity in Namibia continues to grow, it is essential that the safety of the public remains the foremost consideration. The responsible classification and management of airspace is one of the primary mechanisms through which this protection can be achieved.

Finally, the NDF encourages all affected stakeholders to gather these concerns to enrich the discussions during the extra-ordinary committee meeting as opposed to concentrating on a petition. So we all can contribute constructively to a solution that protects both national security and the continued development of Namibia's aviation sector.



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