



Saturday, 17 February 2024

**Media Statement  
For Immediate Release**

**Communication network interruption leads to air traffic delays**

The Air Traffic and Navigation Services SOC Ltd (ATNS) wishes to advise air transport users of a break down in the frequency network that enables air traffic navigation communication between air traffic controllers and aircraft on Saturday, 17 February 2024.

A number of flights were delayed across air traffic control stations where flight approach and departure were affected – with no reports of flight cancellations attributed to the network disruption.

In the interest of safety, a departure separation flow restriction was extended while mitigation measures were implemented to clear the subsequent departure backlog. These include the addition of more air traffic controllers to fast track the process of reducing the backlog, and the extension of hours of service at various regional airports to facilitate the delayed flights.

About 80% of the disrupted communication network service, which first showed signs of weakness on Wednesday, has already been resolved by the technical support teams. Work is ongoing by ATNS to restore the rest of the network across affected stations by end of the week.

ATNS remains committed to ensuring the safe and speedy resolution of the service interruptions experienced by air transport users.

The company regrets and apologizes for the inconvenience experienced.

Ends

**Issued by the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Ltd**  
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