

# Two die in military plane crash, NCAA downgrades Kaduna airport

**A**TWO passenger aircraft belonging to the Nigeria Air Force (NAF) has crashed in Kaduna, killing two officers - a Group Captain and a Flying Officer.

The crash occurred at 3p.m. between Jaji and Kachia. The aircraft is known as Air Beetle used for training by the NAF.

As at press time, the reason for the crash was unknown.

This is coming as the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) yesterday announced the restriction of flights by certain aircraft to

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the Kaduna Airport.

In a statement yesterday, Director-General, NCAA, Harold Demuren, said only light aircraft would henceforth be cleared to fly to the airport.

However, Air Traffic Controllers yesterday confirmed the crash of the NAF training aircraft to *The Guardian*, but noted that since the accident involved military aircraft, it would be wrong to comment on it.

On the Kaduna airport,

Demuren disclosed that only aircraft with equivalent maximum fuselage of three metres and over-run length of less than 18 metres like the *Hawker Sidney 125* would be permitted to fly in and out of the airport.

He said the NCAA took the action because the Kaduna Airport lacked adequate fire cover, which had forced the authority to downgrade the status of fire service from Category Seven to category three.

Demuren stated that in line with the NCAA safety over-

sight functions, the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) had accordingly been directed to issue the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) dated May 27, 2009 to notify all airlines and other stakeholders of the downgrading.

His words: "Critical aircraft that are currently allowed to operate to the airport shall not exceed HS125 Series 300 or aircraft with equivalent maximum fuselage of three metres and over-run length of less than 18 metres."

## r 'Father Christmas' says minister