



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REGIONAL AIRPORTS MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMY**

**Kimberley, 26 September 2018** – Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) regional airports in Kimberley, Upington, George, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and East London are making a significant impact on the South African economy in the form of job creation, contributions to gross domestic product (GDP), tax revenues and investment into infrastructure development.

In the last financial year (FY2017), ACSA and its nine South African airports contributed R9.5 billion towards GDP (0.3% of national GDP), supported 14,950 jobs (direct and indirect) and R2.8 billion of income to workers in South Africa.

Said Senzeni Ndebele, Airports Company South Africa's corporate affairs senior manager: "Airports have always had a significant role to play in enabling regional economic growth. They permit connections between cities, which catalyses economic activities through amenities and needs for non-residential passengers in transit, as well as supporting aviation-related services, co-located commercial developments and the provision of infrastructure."

Kimberley Airport has a direct, indirect and induced impact on the growth of the economy in the regional sector. In 2017 Kimberley Airport contributed 38 million rands towards GDP, which amounted to a 0.1% contribution to provincial GDP. The airport has also created 127 jobs in the region with a total income contribution of 23 million rands for employees in the regional sector.

Airports Company South Africa is exploring regional partnerships that will result in route expansions and additional route options at each of its six regional airports, which in addition to Kimberley Airport include Upington International Airport, George Airport, Bram Fischer International Airport, Port Elizabeth International Airport and East London Airport.

These regional airports are learning from the successes of Cape Town International Airport, which welcomed its 10<sup>th</sup> million passenger in 2016. Cape Town International Airport has become a major asset to the City of Cape Town, bringing in thousands of tourist passengers daily who support local job creation in various economic sectors. The same can be said of King Shaka International Airport in Durban, which exceeded five million passengers in 2016.

Cape Town's Project Khulisa growth strategy is working to create up to 100 000 additional tourism jobs in the region through partnerships between the airport and the tourism industry. In addition, Cape Town Air Access is a partnership between the Western Cape Government, the City of Cape Town,

Wesgro and Cape Town Tourism. The team has secured new routes as well as route expansions which has resulted in additional revenue of R3 billion for the Western Cape in 2016.

“Our regional airports are gateways for the growth of domestic tourism and we are committed to exploring partnerships that will catalyse economic opportunities and boost job creation around our regional airports,” said Senzeni Ndebele.

**ENDS**

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