

RUNWAY SUCCESS FOR COMMUNITIES OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Cape Town, 20 March 2019, 45 community members from the informal settlements of Freedom Farm and Malawi Camp, today graduated in Competency Based Modular Training (CBMT) in House building. The training which commenced in September 2018 at a cost of R1.3 million, marks the second of its kind for Airports Company South Africa, Cape Town International Airport (CTIA).

The runway realignment plan at CTIA requires that the three informal settlements of Freedom Farm, Malawi Camp and Blikkiesdorp be relocated in order to secure its future expansion plans and together with the City, a formal housing development is underway. As part of its commitment to these communities, CTIA is assisting community members in providing them access to key house building skills which include bricklaying, carpentry, painting and plumbing.

“Skills training such as this immediately makes these community members more employable and will hopefully help to improve their access to work. We are immensely proud of the 98% percent pass rate, something for which the students must be commended,” said Deon Cloete, General Manager: Cape Town International Airport.

“The specific focus of upskilling community members will afford them greater opportunities to become entrepreneurs or to look for job opportunities as skilled artisans, bricklayers, carpenters, painters and plumbers – all valuable and important t skills needed for our growing economy and we are pleased that these newly skilled graduates are now ready and able to enter the job market,” said Executive Mayor Dan Plato.

As a continuation of this programme, ACSA plans to provide further scholarships to students who qualify to complete the 12-month comprehensive Community House Building programme and the recognition of prior learning programmes. Through Northlink College’s student support services, students eligible to continue their studies through the Nated programmes will be assisted to apply for NSFAS bursaries.

“With our pending expansion programme at the airport, we intend sourcing skilled resources from various communities surrounding the airport for our projects, which makes these skills key,” said Deon Cloete, General Manager CTIA.

Tel +27 21 937 1200 Fax +27 21 936 2937
Administrator Office, Southern Office Block, Western Cape, South Africa, 7525
Private Bag X9002, Cape Town International, Western Cape, South Africa, 7525
www.airports.co.za

“These students have risen above their current circumstances and have shown tenacity in seeing the programme through. One of the students managed to complete the programme despite being pregnant and giving birth during the process. The communities see the value and are determined to complete the courses presented to them,” added Cloete.

The partnership with Northlink College has also seen 12 community members from Freedom Farm benefitting through an Early Childhood Development scholarship offered by the Western Cape Education Department. The 12 students commenced with training in Early Childhood Development in January 2019. ACSA made a contribution to the funding to ensure the students are transported from the community to the campus.

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Media enquiries:

Media Spokesperson

Deidre Davids
Senior Manager Corporate Affairs
Cape Town International Airport
Airports Company South Africa
Direct: +27 21 937 1303
Cell: +27 82 377 4521
E-Mail: Deidre.Davids@airports.co.za

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- Cape Town International Airport achieved third place in Best Airport by Region;
- Cape Town International Airport was named Best Airport in Africa (over 20 000 air traffic movements) in the Safety Awards;
- Bram Fischer International Airport achieved first place in Best Airport by Region in the under 2 million passengers category as well as Most Improved Airport; and
- Upington International Airport joined the 2016 Director's Roll of Excellence for being ranked in the top five airports for its category, size and region from 2006 to 2015.

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CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

AIRPORTS COMPANY SOUTH AFRICA

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