

MEDIA RELEASE

AIRPORTS COMPANY SOUTH AFRICA HANDS OVER CUSTOM-MADE WHEELCHAIR TO DISABLED ATHLETE GERRIT HENDRICKS

George, 28 August 2017 – The Socio-Economic Development (SED) committee of George Airport handed over a state-of-the-art racing wheelchair to well-known disabled athlete Gerrit Hendricks on Friday.

“We are delighted to sponsor Gerrit with a new specialised wheelchair, especially after the disappointment he encountered during the Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge this year. He will be competing in the Commonwealth Games in 2019 so this wheelchair will be perfect for the event and we wish him the best with his sporting goals,” said Senzeni Ndebele, Airports Company South Africa’s corporate affairs senior manager.

George Airport Manager, Brenda Vorster said, “It is with pleasure that we are sponsoring a second wheelchair to Gerrit Hendricks. Gerrit’s humble beginning with ACSA started with a request for a T-shirt and instead he has been surprised with two wheelchairs. We are happy to know that he is mentoring two youngsters to chase their dreams of becoming wheelchair racers.”

Gerrit has been sponsored by George Airport during his tournaments for the past four years. He started racing in 2004 and has since won several major road races in South Africa. In 2009 the self-taught wheelchair racer won the 2009 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m track races at the National Championships in Port Elizabeth and in 2015 he represented South African at the All Africa Games in Brazzaville, Congo.

“With Airports Company South Africa’s sponsorship I got my South African Colours and represented my country at the All Africa Games in 2015. This sponsorship has also helped me to improve my personal circumstances and outlook on life. My sport is thriving, I’ve set my goals for the next four years, and with my new racing wheelchair, I am confident that I will thrive in my racing goals,” said Gerrit Hendricks.

“Empowering and supporting athletes with disabilities is a core focus area for Airports Company South Africa. Every athlete is dependent on financial sponsorship and for athletes like Gerrit Hendricks our sponsorship means that they can thrive at their sporting goals whilst also inspiring other youths from difficult places,” said Ndebele.

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