

## **O.R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NAMED AFRICAN AIRPORT OF THE YEAR**

**KEMPTON PARK, 21 February 2019** – O.R Tambo International Airport, South Africa’s biggest and busiest port of entry, was named African Airport of the Year at this week’s Air Cargo Africa conference and exhibition. This was the fourth time the airport has won the award.

The Air Cargo Africa 2019 event in Ekurhuleni attracted more than 80 international exhibiting companies and more than 3 000 trade visitors from 60 countries including from 30 African nations.

The purpose of the annual Air Cargo Africa awards is to honour and recognise outstanding achievements by leading cargo logistics service providers. Airports and airlines on various factors including equipment, performance, information technology and customer service.

General Manager of the airport Ms Bongiwe Pityi-Vokwana says the management and staff are humbled by the award which underscores their drive to boost cargo volumes.

“We are extremely proud to have been named African Airport of the Year over the past few years. Winning this award demonstrates our commitment to deliver the best infrastructure for our stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to strengthen trade and commerce in our region,” says Pityi-Vokwana.

Conference hosts Messe München South Africa say this year’s event was attended by about 20 CEOs of global airlines and air cargo companies. Organisers say that what was particularly different this year was the level of attendance by senior executives which is an indication of growing interest in facilitating air cargo-based trade with Africa.

Pityi-Vokwana says that 82% of South Africa’s total air cargo volume of about 400 000 tons a year is routed through O. R. Tambo International Airport’s Western Precinct Cargo Terminal with 92% of the total being international cargo.

Most of the uplift capacity is provided by passenger airline networks that transport 70% of the total cargo in the belly of passenger flights. Freight traffic generates 30% of the total volumes.

“The flow and destinations of air cargo are driven by the cargo community. Cargo airlines go where their customers are and the airline’s customers, the agents, decide on the routing. The local cargo community members are therefore essential to supporting the airport and its growth.

“Cargo plays a big role in the revenue stream of airlines. We continue to work hard to position the airport as a key player in the worldwide air cargo business with South Africa as the gateway for Sub-Saharan Africa and a turntable between South America, Australia and Asia,” says Pityi-Vokwana.

“We pride ourselves on remaining focused on collaborating and supporting our stakeholders in the cargo value chain and it is really their hard work that made it possible for us to receive this award again,” says Pityi-Vokwana.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors about Airports Company South Africa**

Airports Company South Africa is the largest airport operator in Africa. Our mission is to develop and manage world-class airport infrastructure for the benefit of all stakeholders

We manage South Africa's nine principal airports\*. In fulfilling this task, Airports Company South Africa enables more than 80 percent of South Africa's commercial air travel. Our airports process 40 million arriving and departing passengers a year.

In the 2017/18 financial year, Airports Company South Africa reported total revenue of R6.9-billion. Currently 52% of Airports Company South Africa revenue is derived from regulated tariffs for aircraft landing and parking fees and a passenger service charge. The remaining 48% is non-aeronautical revenue generated by airport retail, parking, property and other services.

Airports Company South Africa's global footprint extends to technical advisory services and support, airport management, and operating concessions in India, Brazil, Munich, and Ghana.

We also frequently feature among the winners of independently-judged global airport awards. In the 2017 Airports Service Quality awards presented by Airports Council International no less than four of our airports were honoured:

- King Shaka International Airport achieved first place in Best Airport by Region;
- 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.

For more information please visit [www.airports.co.za](http://www.airports.co.za).

\*South African airports we operate are: O. R. Tambo International Airport, Cape Town International Airport, King Shaka International Airport, George Airport, Bram Fischer International Airport, Upington Airport, Kimberley Airport, Port Elizabeth Airport and East London Airport.