

MEDIA RELEASE

O. R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STATEMENT ON ASSAULT IN FRONT OF TERMINAL BUILDING

Kempton Park, 12 September 2018 – Management of O. R. Tambo International Airport is greatly saddened by the serious injuries suffered by a 71-year-old man during an altercation outside the airport buildings on Sunday morning.

Our information is that the man remains in hospital in a critical condition having suffered head injuries in the altercation. We extend our sympathy and support to the injured man and his family,” said airport spokesperson Leigh Gunkel-Keuler.

The altercation took place on Sunday 9 September at 10h12, apparently over a parking space in front the airport terminal building.

Airport management has viewed video footage of the incident. The video shows that an altercation broke out between a driver in a green SUV and a driver in a gold motor vehicle. The video shows that the SUV driver got out of his vehicle and kicked the fender of the gold vehicle.

The driver of the gold vehicle got out and the two men argued and then began throwing punches. An airport security officer patrolling the lower road way intervened within one minute of the incident. The driver of the gold vehicle then went into the passenger terminal building and returned with two people and their luggage.

While the driver of the gold vehicle was loading luggage into the boot, the driver of the green SUV returned and resumed the confrontation. While the driver of the gold vehicle was attempting to get into his vehicle, the SUV driver poked him in the face.

Punches were then again thrown as the airport security officer attempted to separate the individuals. During the brawl the driver of the SUV fell to the ground. The driver of the gold vehicle drove off.

The airport security officer can be seen on the video attempting to separate the individuals and resolve matters throughout the altercation which lasted about four minutes.

Additional airport security officers arrived on the scene within five minutes. SAPS officers and paramedics arrived on the scene at about 10h35. The injured person was transported to hospital by paramedics by 10h39.

Airport management has provided the necessary video footage to the SAPS which is investigating the assault.

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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.

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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:

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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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