

MEDIA RELEASE

UPINGTON AIRPORT EMPOWERS FEMALE FIREFIGHTERS

Upington, 4 April 2019 – Upington International Airport held a graduation ceremony to celebrate 15 female candidates who graduated from the company's Firefighters Skills Development Programme, which was launched in November 2018 to train women in the critical skill of firefighting.

The women have received an internationally accredited National Fire Protection Association 1001 certificate endorsed by the International Fire Services Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the South African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI). The qualification will make the candidates employable with any firefighting organisation, internationally. In addition to the qualification, they received a code 10 driver's licence to be able to operate firefighting trucks.

The programme fully funded by Airports Company South Africa as part of the company's Socio-Economic Development (SED) programme aims to provide scarce skills to young females in the Upington area. The programme included theory classes and practical activities in rescue and extraction; hazardous material awareness; breathing apparatus training as well as first aid.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Upington International Airport Regional Airport Manager, Nongo Dibete said, "We started this programme after realising the challenge with recruiting skilled female fighters in the Upington area. It is our commitment to contribute towards closing the gap created by the high unemployment rate in communities surrounding our airports."

Two firefighters from this pool will be appointed at the Kimberley Airport. In addition, Rural Metro will appoint one candidate as an instructor and allocate the remaining candidates to areas they are contracted to, in the Northern Cape. However, any candidates who do not get absorbed by Rural Metro or Airports Company South Africa will still have the skills to be employable at any other firefighting organisation.

Tel +27 11 723 1400 Fax +27 11 453 9354

The Maples, Riverwoods, 24 Johnson Road, Bedfordview, Gauteng, South Africa, 2008

P O Box 75480, Gardenvue, Gauteng, South Africa, 2047

www.airports.co.za

Airports Company South Africa's Socio-Economic Development (SED) focus areas are education, environmental sustainability, youth and women empowerment as well as the support for the disability sector. The firefighters Skills Development Programme is targeted at addressing the skills shortage among youth in the country.

ENDS

For media and editorial queries contact:

Senzeni Ndebele, Senior Manager: Corporate Affairs +27 11 723 2678 +27 62 083 4858

Senzeni.Ndebele@airports.co.za

More about Upington International Airport Upington International Airport received international status in 1993 and has enjoyed an eight percent annual increase in passenger figures in recent years. Although small, the airport has three runways. In addition to this, the airport is a gateway to Upington and neighbouring areas connecting people to possibilities and is a catalyst for growth in the regional.

<http://www.airports.co.za/airports/upington-international/the-airport/about-upington>

Tel +27 11 723 1400 Fax +27 11 453 9354

The Maples, Riverwoods, 24 Johnson Road, Bedfordview, Gauteng, South Africa, 2008

P O Box 75480, Gardenvue, Gauteng, South Africa, 2047

www.airports.co.za