

MEDIA RELEASE

BLOEMFONTEIN'S KAGISANONG EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW AND SAFE LEARNING SPACES

BLOEMFONTEIN, 30 January 2020 – Young learners at Metsing Early Childhood Development Centre in Bloemfontein's Kagisanong township today received new learning spaces that meet safety requirements listed by the Department of Social Development for Early Childhood Development Centres.

Airports Company South Africa officially handed over to the centre three fully-equipped classrooms, a principal's office and a kitchen along with additional ablutions for learners and adults, furniture, appliances, books and toys. The new facilities will benefit more than 60 learners, four educators and one kitchen staff.

The handover was celebrated by Airports Company South Africa along with learners and their teachers who expressed their delight at the upgraded facilities which now provide a safe learning environment for young children in the community. This development is expected to improve educational outcomes of Early Childhood Development learners in the Kagisanong township.

Refentse Shinnars, Group Executive for Corporate Affairs at Airports Company South Africa said: "Seeing the faces of the learners and teachers at Metsing Early Childhood Development Centre today was extremely moving. We are honoured as Airports Company South Africa to contribute to making a difference in the lives of children in disadvantaged communities by ensuring that they have safe facilities and the support they need to reach their full potential."

Metsing Early Childhood Development Centre is one of few centres in the entire township. Prior to Airports Company South Africa's intervention, the centre was dilapidated and non-compliant with safety regulations set by the Department of Social Development for Early Childhood Development Centres. These infrastructure hazards affected learner attendance and performance.

"We are particularly pleased to be able to contribute to Metsing Early Childhood Development Centre. The challenges at Metsing Early Childhood Development Centre affect the readiness

of learners for primary school, so with this initiative, we hope to contribute not only to improved learning conditions but children who are better prepared for primary school,” said Shinners.

This project is part of Airports Company South Africa’s socio-economic development programme to promote social cohesion and inclusion and promotes transformation through education programmes, teacher and learner development initiatives and infrastructure support for disadvantaged communities.

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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 facilitates more than 80 percent of South Africa’s commercial air travel. Our airports process some 42-million arriving and departing passengers a year.

In the 2018/19 financial year, Airports Company South Africa reported total revenue of R7.1-billion. Currently 55% of Airports Company South Africa revenue is derived from regulated tariffs for aircraft landing and parking fees and a passenger service charge. The remaining 45% 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 2019 Skytrax World Airport Awards, administered independently by Airports Council International, our airports received the following awards:

- Air travellers voted Cape Town International Airport the Best Airport in Africa. This is the fourth year running that Cape Town International Airport secured this award.
- King Shaka International Airport in Durban won this year’s award for Best Regional Airport in Africa and Best Airport Staff in Africa serving 5-10 million passengers. The airport has also been recognised previously in the Skytrax awards.

For more information please visit 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.