



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Youth encouraged to take to the skies

Dundee Air Show opens up a world of opportunity in the aviation industry

Dundee

For immediate release

The Dundee Air Show and Career Exhibition, held last weekend, presented the opportunity for local learners to enjoy a colourful display of aerobatic flying and explore the possibility of taking up a career in aviation. The event, a joint initiative between the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and the Endumeni Municipality, was held to celebrate the end of Transport Month.

More than 1 000 learners from the Umzinyathi District were invited to attend the event, which was addressed by the Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga.

Ms Chikunga encouraged interested learners to set their sights on taking up a career in aviation. A challenging path requiring excellent skills in maths and science, the sky is nevertheless the limit for those who make the grade.

Awareness of career opportunities in aviation amongst historically disadvantaged individuals (HDIs) remains low, and career exhibitions like these are intended to change that. At present, this group remains under-represented in the industry, with black pilots accounting for only 8% of licensed personnel.

Co-sponsors of the event, South African Airways (SAA) and the South African Air Force, were on hand to give the youngsters a feel for flying in state-of-the-art flight simulators and to answer their questions about the many careers on offer in aviation.

"I've wanted to be a pilot ever since I can remember," said one of the learners attending the event, "but I just didn't know how to go about it. Now I know what is needed and what to aim for. I want to prepare myself to take my place in the cockpit."

End.

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