

Address by MEC Gaoage Molapisi during the International Civil Aviation Day held at Mahikeng Airport- 04 December 2015.

Program Director

Transport Minister Mmarona Dipuo Peters

Senior Managers from DOT

HoD Bailey Mahlakoleng

Acting Provincial Commissioner – General Tsumani

Departmental and SAPS Senior Management

Ngaka Modiri Molema Executive Mayor Cllr Tshepo Makolomakwa

Councilors

Our future leaders (beautiful learners)

Distinguished guests

Members of the media present

Ladies and gentlemen

A warm welcome to you all and my special one to our brothers and sisters who have travelled from different parts of the world to be here with us today. I must say that we are privileged as a province to be hosting this international event. I know that the Minister has intensely engaged the Premier about the Air show coming here especially after we had in the few months ago re-activated our Airport which has not been working for many years and we are proud that as the Fifth Administration we have ultimately managed to get it up and running again and introduced flights from Mafikeng directly to OR Tambo International Airport. This has also created jobs for our people and there are more to come including economic opportunities on the pipe line. Indeed we are Rebranding, Repositioning and Renewing Bokone Bophirima.

Tona Mme Peters, ke rata go tsaya nako e ke leboge le di engineer, weather man, airhostess le bafofisi ba rona ba kamoso, ba ke tsayang gore gompiano ke bone baeng ba rona batlotlo, bana ba dikolo le Barutabana ba bone. Gonna teng ga bona go refa tsholofelo ya gore tsa di phofo di tlile go gola mo porofenseng ya rona le naga ya rona.

Program director, the objective of the International Civil Aviation Day annual celebration is to establish and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance on international civil aviation in the social and economic development of States.

The aviation has its own unique virtue of bringing people closer together, promotes economic growth, facilitates trade and also plays a significant role in the wider economic development of society, within Africa and other continents.

Ladies and gentlemen, this industry must therefore benefit everybody including those of our people from rural communities; hence we are here today with learners from different schools across the province in particular those coming from Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies (VTSD) to encourage them to considering careers in the aviation sector. We have spend the past two days going up and down learning and experiencing Aviation and today we are now going to see real staff, action and hope this will motivate you more.

We are therefore equally excited that just few months ago after we have just activated our Airport which has not been working for many years, we have been given the opportunity to host this international event.

Minister, I must also hasten to mention that in terms of our Plans with regard to Aviation, we would like to be counted amongst the best in Africa. There are many private flights and air strips in the province who normally organize their private events and dominated by the white people. We are therefore developing a plan to manage them and consolidate them to be under our wings so that we inculcate the culture of using Air space as another mode of transport.

We have an African Union Academy that is training people to be pilots both on commercial and private right here in our Airport. We also have Air Traffic and Navigation Services training and Bursaries offered here, further, there is training offered by South Africa Weather Services here and bursaries. Excitedly, we have partnered with South Africa Express to train our young people to be pilots and already we have three young people who are now flying to qualify to be full licensed pilots. Notably, SA Express is currently training Air Hostess for the Airline also coming from this province. Great opportunities indeed are realized and our plans now are to have a multipurpose training centre which will be a one stop shop and have all the training to be done here.

Land Transport has its challenges and disadvantages that we know such as high number of road accidents, cost, time and the culture of using only one mode of transport.

We therefore want to encourage the Department of basic education to arouse interest to the learners in choosing aviation as their career path. Therefore there are specific subject that they should take which are Mathematics, Science and Geography which is the passport to realize that. Many people say that these subjects are difficult but I'm saying that it is just a myth, dedication, focus and determination will take you there, ***Moremogolo go betlwa wa taola wa motho wa ipetla*** and ICAD should motivate you to realize that. Remember what Tata Nelson Mandela said, **"it always seems impossible until it is done"**. And that is very true and I'm sure most of you will agree with the statement. We have a responsibility as government to nature and harness the ambitions of those who have the interest in civil aviation, **"tlogatloga e tloga gale modisa wa dikgomo otswa natso sakeng, ntime o mphele ngwana.**

Bagaetsho letsatsi la gompiano ke la di tiragalo eseng la puo ka ebile le mogote o tsentse letsogo re buile thata mo malatsing a fetileng jaanong re batla go bona boitsanape, bo tswerere le manonthothlo. Re itumelela thologelo le tiro e ntle e re e bonang ka kwano gotswa ko tshimologong go baakanyetswa letsatsi le la gompiano, kana bontle jwa itirelwa.

Minister once again we are humbled by your decision together with the Premier to bring this Air Show to our province to stimulate and market our Airport. This has energized us even more and we will make sure that next time you visit us we will be singing a nice tune and promise we will never be disappointed.

Those who will be given the opportunity to fly enjoy it, and I can't wait to settle and feast my eyes with these amazing birds on air and hope everybody is looking forward to that. **#let the plains fly.**

Let us all enjoy this 2015 International Civil Aviation Day.

Ame a kalo Motsamaisa tiro, Kealeboga.