

## **OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER'S IMPRESSION ON THE TRANSPORT CAREER EXPO + LOWVELD AIR SHOW**

Under the sterling stewardship of the Deputy Minister of Transport, Honourable Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga, a tripartite alliance was forged between the provincial Department of Education and the Lowveld Airshow to deliver a resoundingly successful Transport Career Expo on Friday, 20 May 2016.

Upwards of 2000 learners invited through the provincial Department of Education attended the event. The schools represented include: Sibisiswe; Masitake; Sitintile; Lekazi Central; Lihawu; Mandlesive; Hlanganani; Khutsalani; Hazyview Comprehensive; Lungisani; Emjindini; Cyril Clarke and Portia Shabangu.

The Deputy Minister of Transport was highly impressed with the turnout of the learners and their reaction, the warm reception by the host [Kishugu Services] and the general organisation of the event. "Through this auspicious event the DOT is aiming at exposing Mathematics and Science high school learners, from Ehlanzeni District schools, to transport related opportunities available across the transport sector; recruiting them; and exposing them to career pathways in the critical and scarce skills category currently in short supply especially amongst the previously disadvantaged individuals [PDIs] youth", said the Deputy Minister.

The ultimate goal of this initiative was to pull together resources of various stakeholders to contribute towards achieving a common cause. From the point of view of the DOT, this initiative would not have been possible if it were not for the support of the sponsors including: BusCo; the South African Maritime Safety Authority [SAMSA]; Transport Education Training Authority [TETA] and National Youth Development Agency [NYDA].

The learner programme put together for the day was structured to offer educational and entertaining content. It unfolded with the Deputy Minister delivering a message to the learners motivating them to excel in their studies and also advancing themselves beyond matric. The Deputy Minister distributed 100 bicycles to various schools through the Shova Kalula Learner Transport Programme of the DOT. Vodacom sponsored 20 Smart Tab 3G Tablets, which were awarded as prizes to brainy learners who answered correctly questions posed to them on topics covered earlier on Vodacom e-school.

Thereafter, the learners visited and networked with exhibitor's stalls of prospective educational institutions and employers. They also took part in the interactive demonstrations. The day ended with a spectacular airshow generously sponsored by the Kishugu Lowveld Airshow. It was well received by the learners together with their educators and everyone in attendance.

“These kinds of events and undertakings will ensure that aviation broadens the platform to incorporate other modes of transport. This will provide an integrated transport platform for both showcasing career opportunities available across the transport sector and recruiting the youth into the sector, especially those from historically disadvantaged communities [HDCs] in Mpumalanga and other Provinces”.

“The synergy and partnership amongst the DOT, the provincial Department of Education and the organisers of the Lowveld Airshow is very critical for the learners in the province and the country in general”, said the Deputy Minister of Transport.

The DOT believes and is investing in identifying and nurturing a talent and skills pipeline, it will seek to maintain close contact with the learners who attended the Transport Career Expo and the Lowveld Airshow 2016 with a view to tracking their academic progress and eventually supporting them with sponsorships as well as directing them to opportunities available in the transport sector.

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