

**MEDIA STATEMENT
NEWS EDITOR
01 JULY 2016**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT EXPOSES LEARNERS TO
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN AVIATION.**

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in collaboration with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) concluded the Youth Month celebration on top of the sky by hosting at least 60 learners from various schools within the Mpumalanga Province with the purpose of encouraging the aspiring pilots to pursue careers in aviation. The career guidance tour which took place on the 29th of June 2016 at OR Tambo International Airport targeted learners from rural communities between grade 09 and 12 who are excelling in maths and science.

The tour has been a memorable experience for the learners including Ms Zinhle Gumbo, a grade nine learner from Bushbuckridge Secondary School, who has never been to the airport before. "I have never experienced anything like this in my entire life. It was exciting to see pilots flying an aircraft which I normally see vividly above the clouds. Initially I wanted to study medicine but I have since changed my mind after the whole experience. I now want to pursue a career in aviation," she explained.

According to one of the Educators who were accompanying the learners, Ms Lebo Mahlangu from Emthunzini Secondary School, the session was an eye-opener. "I wish that such initiatives could be part of the school curriculum because career opportunities especially in aviation are very scarce particularly in rural communities," said Mahlangu.

The Manager for Change Management within the Department, Ms Thandiwe Maziko who facilitated the tour, highlighted that the initiative was part of the Youth Month programme aimed at sparking the learner's interest to pursue careers in aviation. "As the custodian of transport operations amongst others, the Department has a mandate to promote career opportunities in various fields within the transport arena including aviation," explained Maziko.

For more information, kindly contact Mr David Nkambule on (013) 766-6553 or 071-608-1059.