

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday, 07 November 2023.

MARULENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, CLLR TSHEKO MUSOLWA AND MEC FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN LIMPOPO, Ms FLORENCE RADZILANI AGREE TO PURSUE AN INTERNATIONAL LICENSE FOR THE HOEDSPRUIT AIRPORT.

Today, Tuesday, 07th November 2023, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety in Limpopo, Ms Florence Radzilani, met with the Mayor of Maruleng Local Municipality, Cllr Tsheko Musolwa, to chart a way-forward regarding a decision by the Limpopo Provincial Government Executive Committee, to have the Hoedspruit Airport, to be accorded an international license.

MEC Radzilani and Mayor Musolwa, were joined in this meeting, by teams of high-profile officials, from the Maruleng Local Municipality, the Department of Transport and Community Safety and the Gateway Airport Authority Limited.

A few years ago, as part of reinvigorating and repositioning the Provincial Economy, the Limpopo Provincial Government resolved to convert the Hoedspruit Aerodrome License into an International Operating License.

This decision was informed by the number of passengers using the Hoedspruit Airport, annually. Before the Covid-19 disruptions, the Airport saw more than 71 000 passengers through its facilities, with over 75% of these, being international tourists from Central Europe and the Scandinavian Countries.

The majority of them land in Cape Town, and proceed to the Hoedspruit Airport, which is the gateway to the Kruger Trans frontier Park and many other attraction sites in the Eastern Part of the Country.

The international license will be an added advantage to both the tourism and agricultural sectors, which are the mainstay of the Maruleng and the Provincial Economy.

A joint Technical Committee, comprising of Officials from the Maruleng Local Municipality, the Department of Transport and Community Safety and its entity GAAL, is working on modalities to acquire an international license for the Hoedspruit Airport. The Committee will be engaging with the National Department of Transport and the South African National Defence Force, to chart a way-forward in pursuant of this objective.

Upon its logical conclusion, the Airport will create an unfettered market of international travellers into the Limpopo Province.