



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU - NATAL - ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU - NATALI

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

UMNYANGO WEZOKUTHUTHA

MEDIA ALERT

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 21 OCTOBER 2008

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

NATIONAL MINISTER JEFF HADEBE AND MEC CELE VISIT La MERCY AIRPORT ON 2010 READINESS PROGRESS TOUR

National Minister for Transport Mr. Jeff Radebe together with the KZN MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Mr. Bheki Cele will on Friday (24/10/08) visit the La Mercy Airport on a 2010 readiness progress tour. The walk about will commence at 10h00 and they will then after officiate the sod-turning of R102 which is the entrance to La Mercy (King Shaka) airport.

A brand new international airport at La Mercy, just north of Durban, is currently being built at a cost of more than R7billion. This state of the art facility is the 1st Greenfield project undertaken by ACSA.

With this airport being mooted for development from way back in the 1970's, the national Minister of Transport, Jeff Radebe announced in June 2006 that the airport will be built, managed and owned by ACSA. This announcement also paved the way for ACSA to form a co-operation agreement with the Dube Trade Port who will be responsible for the development of the trade zone. The airport at the La Mercy site is planned to be fully operational by the 1st quarter of 2010 and to have the capacity to initially facilitate 7.5m passengers annually with a 3.7km runway that will accommodate the new generation

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aircraft. It is envisaged that the airport, by 2060, should be able to facilitate a projected 45m passengers annually.

The airport is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009 and ACSA would need to conduct the necessary tests and operational readiness requirements before officially opening the airport operationally by the 1st quarter of 2010.

With the construction and operation of the airport at the La Mercy site, ACSA envisages many job and business opportunities will be created. It is estimated that about 270 000 jobs will be directly and indirectly due to this project. As this is a long term project, it is envisaged that this will add to the contribution to the National GDP (R20.5b) which will result in the increase of fixed investments (R6.9b) and the increased Government revenues and taxes R4.3 billion.

ENDS.

Media Contact: Miss Nonkululeko Mbatha-083 6456 252 or Collen Msibi 0824145279

NB: Please note that all journalists who are attending the event to forward their names and ID numbers to mandisi.nsele@kzntransport.gov.za before the end of day tomorrow (22/10/08) for accreditations purposes.

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