

Media Advisory
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POLOKWANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO RESUME WITH COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS.

Limpopo Transport and Community Safety MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya has welcomed with delight the reinstatement of commercial flights at the Polokwane Gateway Airport. The airport was downgraded from Category 7 to 2 by the South African Civil Aviation Authority due to severe security findings. Commercial flights were subsequently suspended to afford GAAL space to address non-compliance.

A team from the Department of Transport and Community Safety was assembled with the assistance of other stakeholders to attend to the findings in order to restore commercial activities in the Province's biggest airport. All findings were addressed within a period of five months and the airport has been given a green light to resume with its operations from mid-October.

The absence of commercial flights was felt during the past long Heritage weekend where thousands of motorists were delayed due to heavy traffic congestion on the N1 and other busy roads in the province. The resumption of commercial flights will come as a relief to hundreds of businesspeople and holiday-makers who often prefer to fly between Polokwane and OR Tambo.

The MEC would also like to thank people of Limpopo, the business fraternity and the tourism sector for their patience in the past five months, especially whose businesses were affected by the downgrade.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Limpopo and South Africa for their patience from April until now. We could have done it sooner but since we were dealing with security issues, I wanted a team to do a thorough work so that we do not compromise and endanger the lives of our people. I am happy that the people of Limpopo will once again start flying from mid-October to various destinations of their choice. This will of course revive all the commercial activities at GAAL and also inject the much-needed boost to our economy" MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The MEC is encouraging the people of Limpopo and other provinces to seize the opportunity and utilize the flights and reduce traffic on our roads.

Issued by the Department of Transport and Community Safety.

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