

SPEECH BY PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA ON THE OCCASION
OF THE LAUNCH OF FLYSAFAIR AT HOEDSPRUIT EASTGATE
AIRPORT, HOEDSPRUIT. MARULENG MUNICIPALITY, MOPANI
DISTRICT

02 OCTOBER 2025

Programme Director,
MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms Violet Mathye,
Maruleng Municipality Mayor Cllr Tsheko Musolwa ,
Department of Defence Representative, Major General L Matnebula,
Chairman of SAFAIR Operations, Mr Blackie Komani,
Traditional Leadership,
Faith-Based Organisations,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Members of the Media,

Thobela, Inhlekani, Ndi masiari, Good afternoon, Goeie Dag,

Good afternoon esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great enthusiasm and a genuine sense of purpose that I stand before you today to celebrate a significant milestone for our province - the launch of the SAFAIR route from Hoedspruit to Cape Town. This initiative is not merely about establishing a new flight path; it is about enhancing

connectivity, promoting economic growth and unlocking the potential of our beautiful Limpopo.

The Kruger to Canyon Biosphere, which stretches across our breathtaking landscapes, serves as a profound backdrop for what this new route represents. Just as the biosphere showcases the diverse ecosystems that flourish in our region, connecting Hoedspruit to Cape Town symbolises our commitment to fostering growth in mining, tourism and agriculture - three pillars upon which our province stands. By enhancing accessibility, we are nurturing the roots of our economy, allowing it to thrive and blossom.

The decision to establish this route is part of FlySafair's broader vision to improve access to the Kruger National Park and harness the tourism potential that lies within Limpopo and Mpumalanga. By doing so, we are not only boosting the convenience of travel for our citizens and visitors but also igniting tourism-driven economic growth.

This route brings more than just convenience; it fortifies local communities, strengthens conservation tourism and provides travelers with unparalleled access to the rich and vibrant experiences that South Africa has to offer.

Since its inception in 2014, FlySafair has distinguished itself as a leader in the aviation industry, earning recognition as the top on-time low-cost airline in the world. The commitment to reliable service aligns perfectly with our vision for Limpopo, where we aim to keep fares competitive while ensuring an excellent travel experience.

Continuous collaboration with tourism stakeholders will be instrumental in amplifying awareness and sustaining the demand for this new route.

Hoedspruit is not just a destination; it represents our mission to connect South Africans with the experiences and beauty that define our nation. This new route, which will operate three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, complements FlySafair's increased daily service from Cape Town to Mbombela. With fares starting at just R1570 one way, this is a significant step forward in making travel more accessible.

This development also aligns seamlessly with our provincial government's ambitious plans to establish a logistics hub and airport in Polokwane. While Hoedspruit will cater to our tourists, these initiatives together will lay the foundation for growth that supports our agricultural and mining sectors.

In conclusion, let us embrace this new journey together. Let us cultivate the fertile soil of opportunity that will allow Limpopo to thrive. Thank you to FlySafair for your commitment to our province and for believing in the potential of Limpopo. Together, we will soar to new heights.

Thank you.