



SWACAA NEWSletter

SWAZILAND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER | ISSUE NO. 4

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KEEPING THE
PRINCIPALS ON
THE LOOP



AIRLIFT STRATEGY FOR
THE EAST3 ROUTE
PARTNERS



KMIII
ACCESS ROAD
OPENING



HIS MAJESTY OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW KMIII ACCESS ROAD

EDITOR'S NOTE

We learnt about the passing away of some of our girls from a motor vehicle accident in the Reed Dance regiment with shock and indignation. We mourn with the entire nation and are together with their families in this pain. It is not difficult to imagine what kind of pain a mother and a father must be going through at a loss of one's precious little girl!

The Reed Dance Ceremony has a long and happy history as a tradition coming a long way back from the foundation of a nation. Its future is bright as it grows in popularity with every generation. Internationally it has become a household

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name almost at the level of the world's fully fledged festivals, fiestas and carnivals. It has started getting into the annual calendars of worthy world events, drawing throngs of tourists from across the world;

mostly Europe, Canada and East Asia. It's a celebration of the pinnacle of felinity.

Talking of a celebration of womanhood we join the rest of the country and region in recognising the month of August as a month dedicated to women. As an organisation we participate in major corporate events that are dedicated to this cause. Our women come out in their numbers to mingle with the best of the land and making us proud as they stand their ground, make their mark and raise our flag in the process. Hurray to you all!

Sabelo Dlamini

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HIS MAJESTY OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW KMIII ACCESS ROAD

From L-R: Chief Mkhumbi Dlamini, President Dhlamini, Deputy Chairman Fannie Mthethwa and Prince Thumbumuzi presenting a gift to His Majesty, while the Minister looks on.

His Majesty King Mswati III says it is disheartening that some of the country's road infrastructure is being destroyed by unknown people to the extent of removing the fences that have been erected to protect motorists from stray animals.

This was during the official opening of the new Sikhuphe-Mbadlane Highway. The project is called 'D42 – access road to King Mswati III International Airport'. It is a two-lane dual carriageway which consists of 18 km of asphalt surfaced road. There are concrete motorway bridges and structural steel pedestrian bridges across the full span of the road, in order to accommodate the public utilising it by providing strategic crossings for the local community. There are underpasses for livestock and pedestrians. The immediate purpose of this road is to serve as an access route to KMIII International Airport from the National Road MR3, which runs from Manzini to Simunye. Not only does it provide easy access to passengers but also it reduces the travel time to the airport by approximately 15 minutes.

His Majesty said such good projects deserve to be applauded because they show that the kingdom is indeed destined to becoming a first world country. His Majesty was visibly a happy man when officially opening the new Mbadlane-Sikhuphe highway as he made his feelings known that he was impressed with the

highway.

He said the way the highway was designed clearly shows that professionals were engaged as it is of a standard that brings Swaziland closer to 2022, when the country aims to have reached first world status. He noted that when driving along the road one does not only focus on the way ahead but also on the different sections that attract the eye with their beauty and networks clearly visible.

His Majesty the King said there is no doubt that this new road will tremendously improve the movement of traffic from the airport to our different locations and cities. "You will agree with me that this is a very beautiful road," he further pointed out.

The King said that government has a duty to make sure that nobody ends up in a worse situation than he or she was in before the commencement of the work, referring to the people who were relocated during the construction of the highway.

"We are all aware now that this road has become a highway and it is for that reason that we urge princes and chiefs who head the various communities alongside the roads to help assist in keeping cattle away from the roads so that we have no accidents," said His Majesty.

He passed a vote of confidence in those who contributed in the construction of the highway, stressing that it was indeed the desired goal for all Swazis for the country to attain first world status by the year 2022. The King said throughout his drive along the highway, he noted that there were

three sections with different designs that showcase the beauty of the road network infrastructure until one reached the KMIII International Airport.

He also said it was such an enormous pleasure for him to be at Mbadlane to officially bless the new Highway D42, which is another great milestone in the development of the country's road network.

While appreciating the newly constructed Mbadlane-Sikhuphe highway, His Majesty noted that some of the road infrastructure in the country is in a bad state. He said that the Manzini-Lomahasha MR3 public road is full of potholes, which has resulted in some accidents occurring. This also needs urgent attention. He implored government to consider improving the road in order to meet the standard of the newly opened highway, thus making the country's road infrastructure a good one.

As a sign of appreciating His Majesty's presence during the official opening of the highway, the construction company and other stakeholders presented the King and Her Majesty the Indlovukazi with cattle.

Announcing the gifts, Minister for Public Works and Transport Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini told His Majesty that some of the stakeholders appreciated the King's presence and had something to offer. Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority presented three cattle, two for the King and one for Her Majesty the Indlovukazi, while the Lubombo business community presented eight cattle, four each for His Majesty and the Indlovukazi.



Expedition Africa Teams from various countries pose for a group photo with sponsor representatives before the start of the tournament.

SWAZILAND HOSTS EXPEDITION AFRICA 2015

Sibebe Rock, Gobholo Caves, beehive huts, Malolotja Potholes and the Great Usutu River are attractions that speak of traditional culture, nature and adventure. They also feature along the 500-kilometre race course for Expedition Africa 2015. This year's Expedition Africa was staged in the Kingdom of Swaziland, co-hosted by the Swaziland Tourism Authority and the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority.

This non-stop, multi-day, international adventure race saw more than 40 four-person teams from around the world competing on foot, bike and kayak through Swaziland. This race is the premier event on the African continent and a qualifier for the Adventure Racing World Championships to be held in Brazil this November. This course entails competitors running, riding, and paddling their way across the harsh and unforgiving landscape. There were eleven countries represented in this year's race, including teams from Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Israel, New Caledonia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

The event started on the slopes of one of Swaziland's scenic

icons, Sibebe Rock, a 300m high granite dome, which is famed for its steep smooth face and gentle folds. Its trail network is controlled by the local community through a body known as the Sibebe Community Trust. The race kicked off just after 07h00 and headed vertically up the rock for 20 minutes of calf-burning effort.

Race Directors, Heidi and Stephan Muller, are very familiar with the less-travelled areas of Swaziland. They raced in the first Swazi Xtreme, a 250-kilometre adventure race presented by Darron Raw in 2001. They have returned every year since to compete in this event, which is still spoken about in South African circles for the adventures experienced in the Kingdom. Swazi Xtreme ran for 10 years with the last event taking place in 2010.

Heidi and Stephan both laugh as they say: "The stories that we can tell from racing in Swaziland! We've cycled through game reserves, and paddled on flat-water, white-water and even in an irrigation canal. We've jumped into rivers, abseiled into caves and used jumars to get up waterfalls. On foot we've crossed mountains, agricultural expanses and forests... There's just so much to this small country."

But knowing the Kingdom doesn't make course planning any easier.

"It's a challenging task," says Stephan, Course Director. "We've had extraordinary adventures in Swaziland at Darron's races and we have so many good memories of racing here."

The official opening of the event was graced by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Honourable Jabulani Mabuza. He thanked the organisers for having chosen Swaziland as an ideal venue for Expedition Africa. Mabuza expressed hope that similar events of this magnitude will be hosted in Swaziland and also extended an invitation to the individual member teams to visit Swaziland with their families to experience the Kingdom's picturesque attractions.



Honourable Minister Pastor Lindiwe with the Principal Secretary Mr Mndawe listening to the Director General Mr Solomon Dube during the briefing session, whilst Mr Litchfield takes some notes.

KEEPING THE PRINCIPALS ON THE LOOP

The SWACAA Director General together with members of the Executive Committee took time out of the office to brief the Minister, the Principal Secretary and senior officials of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport on key projects that are upcoming in the business plan of the Authority.

Key among these was a presentation on the King Mswati III master plan. This concerns SWACAA's strategy on the utilisation of the airport's allocated land in the Sikhuphe area. Many preparations for the investments are expected to happen in this area. The projects include the development of the airport city, development of residential housing and an airport office park. The Director General explained in detail to the Minister the need to segment land and make it friendly for businesses, especially for the international business community. An example was made that as things are currently, an investor needs to obtain a licence from the Swazi Commercial Amadoda to set up business at the airport. This arrangement would certainly not suit big international investment, particularly long-term investment.

...The meeting noted that SWACAA was expected to bring private sector solutions to most of the business questions that exist, making suggestions to Government for implementation...

In her remarks the minister thanked the Director General for a visionary leadership, expressing her confidence that the SWACAA leadership is evidently working hard even if there are many challenges to be faced. In her contribution to the plans she emphasised the need for SWACAA to establish as early as possible the type and character of the town that it wants to create. This is so that the development is vision-driven rather than spontaneous. On the question of the land system, she emphasised that land is available to business people but it is important to be satisfied that in every case there is a good meeting of minds between an investor and the airport.

The meeting noted that SWACAA was expected to bring private sector solutions to most of the business questions that exist, making suggestions to Government for implementation. The airport was expected to run at full capacity with all the amenities for travellers and the communities surrounding it. The Minister also emphasised that SWACAA must continue with the aggressive marketing of the airport through a collaborative strategy involving all stakeholders that market the country in one way or the other such as STA, SIPA and other agencies.



Director General Mr Solomon Dube with his counterparts from Mozambique and King Shaka Airport in Seychelles.

AIRLIFT STRATEGY FOR THE EAST3 ROUTE PARTNERS

The last East3route Investment Seminar was held at Mahe in the Seychelles. Not only did this mark the first time the newest member of the East3route was participating as a host, but also that a session was dedicated to only the investment component of the route.

“What is the East3route and what does it stand for?” one may ask. The answer is simple. Sometime in 1998 there was a meeting between His Majesty King Mswati III, His Excellency President Joachim Chissano and President Nelson Mandela, Heads of the states of Swaziland, Mozambique and South Africa respectively. This meeting deliberated on the need for closer business collaboration between the three neighbouring states, considering their proximity to each other and what they stand to benefit by working together. This vision was then conceived and implemented in 2011 as the East3route. In the forefront was (and still is) Kwazulu Natal Member of the Executive Committee, Mr. Michael Mabuyakhulu. It was to be tourism-driven and the idea was to design and come up with a tourism product that combines all three states in one excursion. This product would then be marketed overseas. An investment wing was also jointly launched to take stock of the tourism-related

businesses and the legacy projects of the East3route. The first excursion commenced in Kwazulu Natal Isimangaliso Wetlands Park, proceeded to Pont 'o Dorr in Mozambique and concluded in Swaziland. Seychelles joined the East3route states in 2014.

The Seychelles Investment Seminar 2015 focused on access of travellers and cargo between states. The Swaziland Railway participated as well as the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority. Both organisations' representatives joined other panelists in discussing how the East3route initiative may enable ease of access for travellers between the member states. Seychelles, being an island nation and with land unsuitable for farming yet with the greatest tourism investment, presents a very good opportunity for fresh produce supply. As it is a tourism paradise, member states have to create an airlift strategy that will ensure there is a direct service from this part of the region to the archipelago. This has to be organised in a manner that links King Mswati III, Maputo and King Shaka airports so that there will be enough passengers combined to obtain the necessary volumes. The seminar was organised by SIPA and STA. Leading the discussions for Swaziland were the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority and Swaziland Railway.



Staff Members from L-R: Tengetile Nkambule, Lilly Stewart, Phetheni Dlamini, Sibongile Masuku and Buyile Khumalo during the Gala night.

WOMEN'S MONTH GALA DINNER

August being declared as International Women's Month, a total of 33 SWACAA ladies joined other women from various companies in celebration. The Women and Wealth Gala dinner, the first annual empowerment event, was organised by a company called Groepe Investments. It was held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre on the 21st of August 2015.

Women were empowered on issues such as investment planning – techniques on how to invest their earnings for a secure financial future; personal motivation – how to be a self-driven individual; productivity in the workplace – being a competent and efficient employee while carrying out their duties and personal branding – which involves how one can present oneself in public and how to obtain and maintain

a positive reputation, and physical and mental fitness.

Member of Parliament and entrepreneur Hans Steffen was among the panel of speakers. He shared with the audience his upcoming projects such as owning an airline that will connect from the King Mswati III International to South Africa in destinations such as Durban, Cape town, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Lanseria, and Johannesburg Wonderboom. Other projects also included factory production and branding of our own traditional regalia (emahiya) and the implementation Lusip Phase II, whose main objective is to alleviate poverty in the project area by transforming the existing subsistence farming into commercial agriculture producing cash crops (principally sugarcane) under irrigation. Phase II is aimed at benefiting about 2259 households and is expected to bring net benefits to the rural poor of the semi-arid Lowveld.

Nokuthula Sithole, who is a former

Miss South Africa, entrepreneur and motivational speaker was the main guest speaker. Sharing her past experiences with the audience, she gave a very motivational speech. She highlighted the importance of goal setting, strategies on achievements and how a negative attitude can have control over one's actions. In addition, she pointed out that one of the reasons we are unable to succeed was due to the fear of taking risks, dwelling on past downfalls and being surrounded by the wrong environment.

In conclusion she emphasized how vital it is for women to look after their diet, have proper exercise and good hygiene. These, if followed can lead to self-confidence. The event ended with photo taking, interaction and dining. Undoubtedly, SWACAA women did benefit and were eager to transform their attitude towards 'women and wealth'.



From L-R (Back Row) : Phumile Sifundza, Nonhlanhla Vilakati, Lungile Tsabedze, Phindile Makube, Nomcebo Mdlalose and Vermark Rose.
From L-R (Front Row): Zinhle Maswangane, Siphephelo Manyatsi, Cynthia Shiba, Pretty Gwebu, Nobuhle Dlamini and Nonjabulo Shabangu.

WOMEN'S MONTH - OUR LADIES ON THE BALL!

History was made when a cheerful SWACAA ladies football team took to the pitch for the first time in the history of the company. The tournament was at Mandela's held in honour of women as part of the Women's month celebration.

The tournament was hosted by All Star Ladies, a team comprising well-known personnel, on the 22nd of August 2015. The objectives of the tournament were to celebrate Women's Month, to socialise with other women from different organisations and to bring beauty to the game.

Among those who honoured the tournament as guests were Princess Ncengcenge, Princess Sibahle, Minister of Tourism and environmental affairs Jabulani Mabuza Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe, Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst and Sandile 'Theo' Motsa. Competing

teams were Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications, MTN, Swaziland Beverages, Royal Swaziland Police recruits, All Star Ladies, Matsapha Town Board, Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority and Leserato. These teams were divided into two groups of four companies.

Our team made us proud as they showed what they are made of in all the three games played.

Cynthia Shiba kept a clean sheet at the goal post, Siphephelo Manyatsi held on midfield and Nomcebo Mdlalose was banging goals as a striker.

The companies that made it to the semi-finals were MTN, SPTC, Matsapha Town Council and All Star Ladies, with the overall winner being MTN. In an interview with Cynthia, she said they were thrilled by the whole experience and were hoping to participate in more activities.



Some of our people at the summit... From L-R: Simiso Gina, Prudence Gwebu, Siphephelo Manyatsi, Zanele Dlamini, Mxolisi Mhlanga, Phindile Makube and Bethusile Matsaba.

WE SUMMIT SIBEBE YET AGAIN

SWACAA has been rising up to the annual Sibebe Challenge since the Authority first started participating in the annual event in 2012. This year was no different as SWACAA once again participated in the 2015 Sibebe Challenge, starting from the visitor centre at Mbuluzi Gate to the top of the majestic rock.

Located around 10km outside Mbabane, Sibebe is arguably the largest exposed granite pluton in the world. Although different in their geology, it is second only to Ayers Rock in Australia as the largest freestanding rock in the world. The best view of Sibebe is experienced walking up it - no easy task if it should be mentioned!

SWACAA participated this year, as in previous years, in the Sibebe Challenge joining a host of other Swazi Corporate

entities in an initiative to help raise funds for the less privileged and needy. The Rotary Club of Mbabane-Mbuluzi are the organisers and patrons of this great initiative and have been hosting the event that attracts record numbers of over 5,000 people.

Such initiatives help bring out and show the true heart and helping hand of the Swazi Nation. As SWACAA, we pride ourselves on offering safety and reliability and that also extends to the common man. Taking part in this challenge is not only part of our Corporate Social Responsibility but it goes beyond that. SWACAA cares about the growth, well being and prosperity of the entire Swazi Nation and will always stretch out to lend a helping hand as we all need someone to help us out in a time of need.

The pride of being African is helping your fellow man and as the old Swazi saying goes "Umntfu Ngumntfu Ngebantfu".

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”

OUR PEOPLE RAISING THE FLAG THROUGH THE LENS





Kaizer Chiefs players going through customs clearance at KMIII.

IT'S THE KING'S CUP, KAIZER CHIEFS HAVE LANDED

A crowd gathered to welcome and cheer South Africa's top football side Kaizer Chiefs as they arrived at King Mswati III International Airport in July 2015. Excitement was the order of the day as visiting school children joined a circle of people dancing and stamping their feet in anticipation of the appearance of the team at the airport public concourse.

History was made as King Mswati III brought South Africa's giants Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs to play together on Swaziland's soil for the first time in the King's Super Cup! Who would have thought? Indeed it looked like a far-fetched dream.

The two soccer giants played the top two teams in Swaziland's 2014/2015 Premier League: Royal Leopards and Mbabane Swallows. The four sides battled it out during a one day tournament held at Somhlolo National Stadium on the 18th July 2015. Kaizer Chiefs landed at King Mswati III International Airport whilst Orlando Pirates who were in Nelspruit

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for the Champions League game, came through the Ngwenya Boarder Post.

The tournament, organised by the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, is by far the largest soccer tournament to have happened in the recent history of Swaziland. The patron of this tournament is the Ingwenyama His Majesty King Mswati III, hence its name, 'The King's Super Cup Soccer Tournament.'

The tournament, which is aimed at fund

raising for the construction of a world class stadium and for the development of Swazi football, emerged as a driver towards integrated regional economic growth as Mbabane Swallows, the winner of the inaugural tournament, walked away E1 million richer! Mbabane Swallows knocked out Kaizer Chiefs in the semi-finals after losing 4-2 on penalties. Orlando Pirates also went down 3-1 on penalties in the other semi-finals against Royal Leopards.

Somhlolo National Stadium can only accommodate 20,000 people so to ensure that soccer fans were not left out of this momentous event, the organising team arranged for Fan Parks at the Mavuso and Prince of Wales sports grounds. Entertainment on the day was boosted by the presence of DJs who ensured that the crowd was kept entertained throughout.

The tournament attracted visitors from neighbouring countries who not only came to watch the games but to also to experience the hospitality of the Swazi people.

The coming of Chiefs and Pirates to play in Swaziland is an indication that Swazi football has what it takes to break into the big leagues.



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