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ATNS CONTRIBUTES TO ICT DEVELOPMENT AT RURAL SCHOOL

Mpumalanga, South Africa. Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC has contributed immensely to the refurbishing of a rural school's library, by providing much-needed Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure which include Broadband Internet Connectivity and End-User Equipment.

The library was officially opened on Monday by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Transport Hon. Sindisiwe Chikunga, MP, in the presence of MEC for Education in Mpumalanga Ms. Regina Mhaule, ATNS CEO, Thabani Mthiyane, CEO of Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), Mr. Bongani Maseko, Principal of Highveld Secondary School, Mr. Magagula and principals from neighbouring schools, as well as a large contingent of local businesspeople.

To date, an end-to-end IT solution that includes YTEACH programme* content has been installed. Twenty (20) computers, two (2) printers and a scanner were sourced and donated to the school. Air Conditioners have been fitted in all the three computer labs to monitor and maintain temperature, air distribution and humidity. Educator Training in the use of technology has been provided.

ATNS' long term objective is to provide ICT centres in a number of schools located in rural areas, primarily to accelerate socio-economic development and to achieve freedom from distance through good telecom and internet services.

ATNS CEO, Thabani Mthiyane said he hoped that the community of Elukwatini accepts, embrace and protect the revamped library. "It is through the goodwill of this community that we are able to address the school's needs. We aim to create and maintain a strong and respectful relationship with this community. We will seek regular engagement about issues that may affect them. And we aim to contribute to the creation of more prosperous and empowered communities. Our presence here means that we have a special responsibility to uplift and bring prosperity to this community" said Mthiyane.

ATNS subscribes to the business principle that states that collaborations and partnerships specifically within the Aviation industry and generally within the broader business spectrum contribute to sustainable development to previously disadvantage communities. It is for this reason that ATNS partnered with ACSA - who provided twenty (20) computer workstations - to make this project a resounding success.

It is envisaged that the above-mentioned ICT infrastructure will benefit the entire Elukwatini community

Ends,

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Notes for the Editor:

Highveld Secondary School, in rural Mpumalanga, has an overall staff complement of thirty (30) educators and just over a thousand learners. The school has – in the past few years - achieved between 95% and 100% matric pass rate.



L – R: Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Regina Mhlaule; Deputy Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga and ATNS CEO, Thabani Mthiyane, at the official opening of the refurbished ICT Library





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