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## Media Release

### ATNS kicks off stakeholder engagement roadshows in East London

Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Ltd has embarked on a stakeholder engagement roadshow to update key stakeholders about the ongoing instrument flight procedure maintenance programme. The transport entity kicked off the nationwide stakeholder briefings in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) in East London on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024. King Phalo Airport, was heavily impacted by the suspended flight procedures with constant flight disruptions such as cancellations, diversions and delays during inclement weather conditions. The airport is located under the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

ATNS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ms. Nozipho Mdawe, met with the leadership of the Metro, including BCMM Executive Mayor Ms. Princess Faku and City Manager Mr. Mxolisi Yawa, to update the municipality on the company's progress in managing the flight procedure maintenance programme.

The CEO stated in the meeting, 'First and foremost, we would like to apologise to all stakeholders, businesses, tourists, and residents of BCMM for the significant inconvenience caused by the suspended flight procedures. We needed to update these procedures to comply with global civil aviation regulations and maintain the high air safety standards for which South Africa is renowned. Several factors, including the poaching of our technical staff and flight procedure design specialists by global aviation companies, have contributed to the backlog. Flight procedures are supposed to be updated every five years; however, due to the reasons mentioned, we have been unable to do so for over 10 years.'

However, she assured the stakeholders that the entity was investing significant resources to resolve the challenge, emphasising that critical procedures for airport accessibility were receiving the highest priority.

The Executive Mayor was accompanied by the leadership of the metro's largest business association, the Border-Kei Chamber of Business (BKCOB). The BKCOB was represented by the Executive Director, Ms. Lizelle Maurice; BKCOB President Mr. Johann Evertse and Vice President Simphiwe Kondlo. The residents of the Metro including businesses, tourists and passengers were heavily affected by the flight disruptions.



The meeting came at the back of the ATNS announcement that the instrument landing system (ILS) flight procedure for Runway 11 at King Phalo Airport has been approved by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). It is pending regulatory publication before it gets operational. Before the approval, only Runway 29 of the airport had valid procedures, while Runway 11 had only an Area Navigation (RNAV) flight procedure. This approval will ensure that both runways, 29 and 11, have the instrument landing system (ILS) flight procedures. As a result of this development, flight operations are expected to improve in this airport, reducing the likelihood of disruptions witnessed recently with flight cancellations, diversions, and delays, due to inclement weather conditions.

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**Issued by Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Limited**

Mphilod Dlamini: 076 639 6800

mphilod@atns.co.za