



Providing safe transport services

Florence Radzilani, MEC for Transport and Community Safety, explains how increased air traffic could reduce the load on the province's roads.



**Florence Radzilani,
MEC for Transport and
Community Safety**

“ BIOGRAPHY

Florence grew up in Masakona village, outside Elim. A BA degree from the University of Venda was followed by two education diplomas and an Honours in Public Administration. She is currently studying for a Master's in Public Administration. She has experience as an assistant director in the Office of the Premier, Executive Mayor of the Vhembe District Municipality and as MEC for the Department of Community Safety before it amalgamated with the Department of Transport.

How does GAAL and the PIA fit into the department's overall mandate?

Part of the mission of the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety is to provide safe, sustainable and integrated transport infrastructure and services for the promotion of socio-economic development. Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) is charged with managing and developing Limpopo airports to provide ease of access to Limpopo province for both tourism and investment opportunities. Aviation plays a vital role supporting the department's mission of implementing integrated transportation.

Can PIA strengthen Limpopo's position as a regional logistics hub?

Polokwane International Airport (PIA) is strategically located as a gateway into Limpopo and its proximity to SADC countries makes it a viable catchment for the establishment of the logistics hub.

How can this be achieved?

This can be achieved through engagements between major industries like agriculture and mining and the airlines and PIA. This collaboration will assist with the establishment of new cargo routes and new operators that will focus on cargo distribution.

Is there a marketing strategy to increase the use of PIA by tourists?

GAAL is finalising a Turnaround Strategy, which includes strategies on marketing with the big focus on education to the effect that air transport is public transport and it is available to everyone. In addition, the province is consolidating the concept of One-Destination Marketing with the Limpopo Tourism Agency.

Is there a link in improving airport numbers to road safety in the province?

Aviation helps achieve the department's mission to provide safe transport services. The increase in the number of people that fly will relieve the load of traffic on the road, especially in peak seasons. Statistics released by the International Air Transport Association confirm that flying is one of the safest ways to travel.

Is the department supporting the improvement of infrastructure at PIA?

Yes, the department has appointed a capable board to implement a turnaround strategy and to oversee governance. The department provides support and oversight over the entity to ensure that its strategic goals are met, including support at provincial structures to ensure that GAAL receives the financial support to improve the airport infrastructure to attract operators and airport users. ■