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THE SACAA GOES BEYOND SAFE SKIES IN HANDING OVER A SKILLS CARE CENTRE IN TEMBISA

In honour of Mandela Day activities for the month of July, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) hosted an interactive 'Beyond Safe Skies' outreach day at the Tshepang Care Centre in Tembisa, a township located on the east of Johannesburg, on Saturday.

As part of the regulator corporate social investment initiatives for the month of July where the global public join hands in a call to action of making an impact to communities in need, the SACAA handed over a structure to the Tshepang Care Centre in Tembisa that provides a bigger space for the centre's skills development programme.

The centre serves as an income-generation project for the home, which serves destitute children within the community. The centre is now able to expand its current product offering from children's clothing which they sell to the immediate community to producing products such as conference bags for corporate companies. The proceeds from the sales are used to help sustain the home in the long-term.

The international Mandela Day concept celebrates the legacy of South African struggle icon and philanthropist, former President Nelson Mandela.

The Tshepang Care Centre was opened in the Vusumuzi informal settlement area in 2012 by Ms Sarah Sibiya. The SACAA's relationship with the centre started two years ago when the organisation responded to the call made by the Department of Transport for its entities to join hands in supporting several charity organisations to enable them to survive after the devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic. The centre has since benefitted from receiving monthly groceries from the institution and feeds more than 500 small children from the surrounding informal settlement daily.

In acknowledging the day's proceedings, the SACAA's Director of Civil Aviation, Ms Poppy Khoza, said: "To take sixty-seven (67) minutes out of your life in order to serve others with no reward or benefit to yourself or your business is one thing that 'Madiba' advocated for in his life. We all have the responsibility to support this noble call by paying it forward. The best way to do that is to look back and assist those who may need our help at every opportunity we get not just during Mandela month in July. As the SACAA this is just one of the ways we are paying it forward, this Mandela month."

"I am grateful that as the country's national civil aviation regulator that our employees have heeded the call to go beyond our mandate of keeping the skies safe in civil aviation activities and dedicated their Saturday to giving back to those less fortunate."

The day's activities on Saturday began with a career exhibition for learners from surrounding Tembisa schools, who received valuable information from aviation experts on the different paths that they can pursue within this sector.

Each year, the SACAA embarks on an Aviation Career Awareness drive around the country to predominantly previously disadvantaged communities with an objective of on demystifying aviation and to see the industry reflecting the country's demographics.

Annually the SACAA touches the lives of more than 40 000 learners and in the past twelve months more than 70 000 learners were reached with this programme.

The regulator also has a Bursary Scheme that offers bursaries to previously disadvantaged learners who wish to study in the fields of Piloting, Aeronautical Engineering and Cabin Crew amongst others and the programme has to date sponsored 103 learners some of whom are studying in France currently.

Link to photos from the Tembisa Care Centre: xxx

ENDS

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