



CEO SPEECH: OFFICIAL OPENING - SUPPLY OF ICT AND SCIENCE LAB INFRASTRUCTURE, Driekopies, Limpopo Province, 25 April 2016

Deputy Minister of Transport, Hon Sindisiwe Chinkunga
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

ICT as an enabler

The dawn of the twenty-first century has seen a number of technological developments which has an impact in almost every aspect of our daily lives. Top most of this - is the ever-increasing use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in all facets of life. I can safely mention examples such as our workplaces, sports fields, schools and on a social level. Without ICT the world – as we see it today – will come to a complete standstill!

ICT is defined as a global network in which ideas are exchanged and where information and knowledge is shared, through the use of communication devices such as mobile phones, techno-advanced computers, used to connect people from anywhere in the world. In the aviation industry we have Communication, Navigation and Surveillance equipment – that enable Air Traffic Controllers to talk to Pilots - in real time - and allows for the safe movement of air traffic.

ATNS CSI Strategy alignment with Government initiatives

Deputy Minister, we are here because of a novel action - which seeks from private business and entities of government such as ATNS - to enhance the efficiency and productivity of both the teaching and learning. We are here because ICT has become a core part of this process. A few years ago we sat as ATNS management and discussed ways that can align our CSI strategy with all relevant national government initiatives and/or frameworks, such as the HRD Strategy and NDP - to mention but a few – to guide the



development of skills and knowledge within our communities. I'm happy to announce here today, that we have left our footprint in four of the nine provinces – in just a year.

The opening of this ICT facility - in this school - will go a long way to narrow the digital divide between rural and urban schools.

Provision of ICT Infrastructure in Schools

Deputy Minister, research has shown that ICT in schools is changing the way students learn, teachers teach, and support staff work. As ATNS we have realized that partnerships do work, and are working effectively. This can be seen in how the adoption of ICT in South African schools has gained momentum. More and more companies have joined hands with government - to provide this critical infrastructure.

This venture will develop communication skills among learners and assist them with their studies. The media has reported on how learners from rural schools are challenged when entering institutions of higher learning – precisely because of their lack of practical understanding of critical subjects such as Mathematics and Science.

Participation in the Avi Afrique Avi Awards

Our company is a proud host of the annual Avi Afrique Innovation Summit. This event provides a platform for aviation industry influencers, innovators and professionals to meet, network and discuss future aviation industry trends and developments.

One of the highlights of the 2015 Avi Afrique event was the presentation of the inaugural Avi Awards, sponsored by Technology Innovation Agency (TIA). In launching this awards programme, ATNS is aiming to provide a focus for the tremendous innovative potential we have always seen within the African aviation industry.



Deputy Minister, these Awards are the result of a partnership between ATNS and TIA, which itself links two critical role-players in aviation, the Departments of Transport and that of Science and Technology. I must acknowledge that these two Departments are already substantial investors in aviation innovation.

We would like to see the Department of Education being involved - by making sure that high schools in this province participate in the Student category of this prestigious innovation Awards.

When Communities take the lead

In closing Deputy Minister, I have observed that some rural schools are not letting the lack of basic infrastructure deny students to learn, teachers to teach, and support staff to work. This hard work has been evident in January of each year - when matric results are announced. A large number of rural schools are achieving excellent results in Mathematics and Science subjects because educators in rural schools, who have acquired some computer literacy, are using the little they have of computers - to prepare their lessons and texts.

Some private business people have – against all odds - acquired used computers, refurbished them and in partnerships with schools from disadvantaged communities, have set up computer literacy classes for educators and learners attend. Such bold initiatives should be supported. And ATNS is no exception.

I Thank you