



**MINISTRY
TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Statement on the State of Readiness of Airports for G20 SUMMIT.

By Minister of Transport, Ms Barbara Creecy, 19 November 2025

Good afternoon to the esteemed members of the media, thank you for joining us for our media briefing on G20 Aviation Forum and state of readiness of our air navigation, airports for the G20 leaders' summit.

It is my privilege to confirm that South Africa's ports of entry are READY to host the G20 Leaders' Summit. Our aviation sector has completed all critical preparations to meet the rigorous standards expected for this historic event.

On 19 November 2024, the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) CEO was tasked to coordinate all G20 aviation matters, and through the collaborative work of the Aviation Forum—including ACSA, the Department of Transport, ATNS, SACAA, and SAA and the Security Agencies in a substructure of NATJOINTs called Venue Operational Centre VOCs—we have ensured the seamless integration and coordination of all our airports nationwide.

As of the 9th of December 2024, the G20 Aviation Forum (DoT, ACSA, ATNS, SACAA, and SAA) began coordinating aviation activities in support of the following Government departments in a bid to successfully facilitate delegates travelling to and from South Africa for the respective

G20 Working Group meetings. The Aviation Forum worked together with the following entities:

- National Treasury
- South African Reserve Bank
- South African Revenue Services
- Auditor General South Africa
- Department of International Relations and Cooperation
- Department of Health
- Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
- Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
- Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
- Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation

The G20 Aviation Forum has successfully supported the coordination and facilitation of G20 delegates across the following airports (ACSA and private airports):

- O.R Tambo International Airport
- King Shaka International Airport
- Cape Town International Airport
- Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport
- Polokwane International Airport (SACAA to confirm)
- Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport
- Skukuza Airport

The Government of South Africa recognised and approved 3 airports and 1 Fixed Based Operator as the main airports to facilitate the Heads

of State and G20 dignitaries in preparation for the Leaders' Summit and as of May 2025, the G20 Aviation Forum comprised of the below entities:

1. O.R. Tambo International Airport: (Port of Entry - Leaders' Summit)
2. Fireblade Terminal (Fixed Base Operator supporting facilitation of Heads of State for Leaders' Summit)
3. Lanseria International Airport (Port of Entry - Leaders' Summit)
4. Waterkloof Airforce Base (Port of Entry - Leaders' Summit)
5. South African Civil Aviation Authority
6. Air Traffic Navigation Services
7. South African Airways (Official Airline Carrier)
8. Department of Transport

On 25 October 2025, the first dry run demonstrated the exceptional readiness of the Ports of Entry workstream, setting a benchmark for operational excellence. The Command Centre and Venue Operating Centres at O.R. Tambo International Airport, Fireblade Terminal, Lanseria International Airport, and Waterkloof Airforce Base have been established and are now fully operational. These centres maintain uninterrupted operations, conducting briefings at 07:00 and 13:00 each day, with the flexibility to convene additional meetings whenever necessary.

The Command Centre takes responsibility for coordinating all functions across the Ports of Entry and designated aircraft parking airports, ensuring a continuous and responsive operational presence. Each day,

structured briefings are held at 09h00 and 17h00, bringing together representatives from all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, to guarantee both coordination and security. Regular reporting to the NATJOINTS at NASREC enables comprehensive oversight and swift, informed decision-making.

I want to provide clarity and assurance regarding the recent power supply interruptions. On 11 and 16 November 2025, O. R. Tambo International Airport experienced outages originating upstream within Eskom's network. These interruptions affected a wide area of the Ekurhuleni Municipality, including Isando—our main incoming supply—and Kempton Park, our alternative supply. As a result, both of ORTIA's primary feeders were lost, with surrounding areas such as Spartan, Glen Marais, Van Riebeeck Park, and the CBD also impacted.

Despite this, operations remained stable. The airport immediately transitioned to its backup power systems, including generators and uninterruptible power supplies, ensuring that critical terminal, airside, western precinct, and cargo activities continued without compromise. Our contingency systems responded exactly as designed, maintaining safety and operational continuity throughout the disruption.

I want to assure you that these events have further strengthened the airport's state of readiness. Systems have been reviewed, assessed, and reinforced for operational resilience measures, giving full confidence in the ability to maintain seamless operations even under external pressures.

At Waterkloof Air Force Base

All key operational areas have been assessed and are in a state of readiness for the G20 Summit. Airfield and parking management are operating at green status, with the lighting system performing well and

aircraft parking at planned capacity. Emergency services remain at Category 9 readiness, and the Movements Control Centre and lounges are fully prepared for VIP and delegation handling.

Ground and aviation safety requirements have been met, with all training, competencies, and briefings completed. Interoperability between Movement Control, ATC, and ATNS has been established, with the Letter of Agreement finalised. Final tactical coordination is underway to address remaining operational considerations.

SAA

As the official airline carrier for the G20 Summit, South African Airways has ensured seamless air transport and full operational support for delegates throughout the planning phase. SAA has actively promoted the summit's themes through integrated branding and communications, including its in-flight entertainment platform and SAWUBONA magazine from March to December 2025.

To enhance the traveller experience, dedicated SAA check-in desks at major South African airports provided a professional and personalised welcome to both international and local guests, reinforcing the airline's commitment to service excellence and G20 readiness.

FIREBLADE

All critical areas are ready, including fuel supply through multiple suppliers, assessed infrastructure, coordinated government agency deployment, robust Heads of States processes with key role-players, and ongoing staff and supplier engagement to ensure operational continuity.

SACAA

South Africa's aviation sector, under the oversight of the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), is fully prepared to support the safe, secure, and efficient delivery of the G20 Leaders' Summit. SACAA will provide regulatory oversight across all operations and stands ready to support where needed, ensuring compliance with international standards.

Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) have executed a comprehensive readiness programme:

Airspace & Air Traffic: ATNS has activated real-time coordination across OR Tambo International, Lanseria International, and Air Force Base Waterkloof, supported by its Command and Coordination Centre for seamless traffic flow and rapid tactical adjustments. Temporary airspace restrictions (22–23 November 2025) will ensure secure operations without disrupting commercial flights.

JET Fuel

Airport Operations: ACSA has strengthened airport operations, passenger handling, and infrastructure support, with fuel reserves of fifty-four million litres and robust redundancy measures in place. Temporary access changes at O.R. Tambo International from 18 November are planned to enhance security without impacting operations.

Personnel & Systems: Staffing levels have been increased, standby teams activated, and air traffic control, engineering, and operational personnel fully deployed. Communication, navigation, and surveillance systems are under 24/7 technical oversight, with maintenance teams positioned to guarantee service continuity.

LANSERIA

All critical areas are ready, including fuel supply through multiple suppliers, assessed infrastructure. VOC reporting to National VOC is operational 24 hours.

TRAFFIC OVERVIEW

ACSA NETWORK				
	AIRCRAFT MOVEMENT		PASSENGER MOVEMENT	
	FY 24/25	FY 25/TO DATE	FY 24/25	FY 25- TO DATE
International	80604	49008	10682898	6486955
Domestic	240741	144164	26088184	16084529
Regional	24148	15648	984363	655384

O.R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL				
	AIRCRAFT MOVEMENT		PASSENGER MOVEMENT	
	FY24/25	FY25/TO DATE	FY24/25	FY25/TO DATE
International	63693	40289	7 463 285	4806889
Domestic	100466	60023	10230354	6239752
Regional	19032	12671	769803	515116

As we prepare to welcome the world for the G20 Summit, all ports of entry and the broader aviation system stand fully prepared, equipped, and ready to support a safe, secure, and world-class hosting.

Thank you.

