

## **ALLDAYS FLY IN FESTIVAL GRADUALLY GAINING MOMENTUM**

In its fourth year of running, the Alldays Fly In festival is gradually gaining momentum. The quiet town of Alldays was brought to life on the 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 as aviation fanatics from in and outside of the province packed the Alldays airstrip to the rafters for the flying experience and other lined up entertainment. The festival was organized by a group of aviation fanatics under the banner of Alldays Vliegklub, a brainchild of Alldays resident Pieter Smith.

According to Smith the idea for a Fly In event was born on January 2011 when a group of fanatical aviation enthusiasts decided to form a flying club using the former SAAF airfield which is situated about six kilometers (6km) from Alldays town as a base.

Mr Smith said as a matter of fact, " Members agreed in late February 2011 that to truly attract more members we should recoup some of our own investment capital to hold an aviation event with a solid agriculture theme so as to attract and include a myriad of the surrounding agricultural community" The goal of Alldays festival according to Smith, is to create annual opportunities for the pilots and visitors to enjoy flying, promote Alldays town and provide the younger generation with exposure and training to the advantage of the festival attendants and surrounding areas.

As usual the Blouberg Executive Committee members were conspicuous by their presence to render their support. Giving a keynote address during the grand opening on behalf of the Mayor the Chairperson of the Community Services Portfolio Committee Cllr Phillemon Tutja, speaking in pure Afrikaans extended his gratitude to Alldays Vliegklub particularly to Susan and Pieter Smith for continuing to annually organize an event of such magnitude which plays a huge role in transforming the economic status of Blouberg. Tutja also expressed enthusiasm in respect of possible growth within the municipal area as he hinted on expansion of the mining prospects and warned against poachers. He further reiterated that the club should be assured of unqualified support from the municipality particularly given the obvious spin offs for the broader Blouberg Municipality and that the festival also served as a tonic for racial harmony in a town historically known for its ultra rightist tendencies.

Some one hundred and sixty five (165) different aircrafts and helicopters were in display and that resulted in more than two hundred and fifty (250) landings to the delight of children and adults in attendance. At the audience's disposal were also some two hundred (200) exhibition stalls with wares ranging from toys, an assortment of food, big brand motor vehicles, tractors and other farming equipments. Most attendees were at awe witnessing the love shown by farmers as they jostled for kudu, impalas, goats and a variety of wild animals which went down the hammer for amounts, which for the uninitiated were ridiculously exorbitant during the auction. Those who didn't want to watch aircrafts taking off and landing were entertained at the marquee tent with sport and music by top Afrikaans artists like Pieter Smith, Dirk van der Westhuizen and other prominent musicians billed for the show.

The children were also entertained through jumping castles, miniature trains and among others Jaco van Staden from Makhado who said that it was an outing for him as he managed to unwind and experience the warmth and hospitality that the Alldays town has to offer. 'I have never missed any fly

in festival since its inauguration some four (4) years ago,' Van Staden echoes. Let the fly in grow in leaps and bounds.