

# **FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

*(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)*

**P.O. Box 22125, Fish Hoek 7974 – Tel: 021 782 1950**

**E-mail: [bdyoungblood@gmail.com](mailto:bdyoungblood@gmail.com)**

**TO: THE MINISTER OF ARTS AND CULTURE: NATHI MTHETHWA  
AIRPORTS COMPANY SOUTH AFRICA (ACSA)  
[Corporate.Affairs@airports.co.za](mailto:Corporate.Affairs@airports.co.za)**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSALS AND COMMENTS ON THE RENAMING OF CAPE TOWN  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**CLOSING: 6 JUNE 2018 AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS <sup>1</sup>**

---

The Transport Ministry has confirmed that proposals had been received for the renaming of the Cape Town International Airport, an initiative which is part of the Transformation of Heritage Landscape government programme and in line with the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) Act #118 of 1998. The Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, is responsible for the approval of geographical names after receiving recommendations from the SAGNC.

The DF Malan Airport was opened in 1954 being named after the then prime minister. Capetonians welcomed the renaming in the early 1990s to the politically neutral Cape Town International Airport as purportedly agreed with the African National Congress. Similarly, Jan Smuts Airport was renamed to Johannesburg International Airport as Jan Smuts was also previously a prime minister.

Changing the name of an internationally recognised airport is both time consuming and expensive as experienced by Johannesburg International Airport when it changed its name to O. R. Tambo International Airport in 2006. The cost for switching the name of Cape Town International Airport has been estimated to conservatively cost R20m <sup>2</sup> excluding secondary costs such as bookings and transportation confusion. There could also be confusion with the previous, but still existing Cape Town Municipal Aerodrome, known today as Wingfield Aerodrome. A lot of goodwill value is incorporated in a strong brand name, which is lost through renaming exercises.

The families' memories are tarnished whenever geographical names of previous leaders are changed. If the name of the Cape Town International Airport is changed to a former politician, history is doomed to repeat itself with the next regime change and again, a previous revered family name will again be tarnished. Rather let history remember the icon / stalwart / struggle hero / freedom fighter / father of the nation for their good deeds than to be disgraced when all traces are removed.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/583/177802.html>

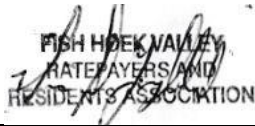
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/renaming-airport-will-be-pricey-says-economist-14584803>

In summary, we quote Janine Myburgh, President: Cape Chamber of Commerce, the “Cape Town Airport is a politically neutral name that enjoys worldwide acceptance. It is an established brand.”<sup>3</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended, for the reasons set out in this report that:

The name of Cape Town International Airport remains unchanged, thus avoiding the fruitless and wasteful expenditure associated with a name change and resulting confusion such a name change will incur.

<b>NAME &amp; SURNAME</b>	<i>Brian Youngblood, Chair: Fish Hoek Valley Residents and Ratepayers Association (FHVRRA)</i>
<b>CONTACT NUMBERS</b>	021 782 1950 / Cell: 084 3 99 99 33
<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>	<a href="mailto:bdyoungblood@gmail.co.za">bdyoungblood@gmail.co.za</a>
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	3 June 2018

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/process-to-rename-cape-town-international-airport-gets-under-way-15209659>