

First flights to St Helena imminent



ACCESSIBLE: Approaching Jamestown, St Helena.

Photo: wikipedia.com

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SOUTH AFRICAN air operator ComAir and the Government of Saint Helena are currently in the final stages in negotiations for the establishment of this South Atlantic island's first air route, once an airport on the island is completed early next year.

The port of Walvis Bay and several Na-

mibian goods and service providers played a pivotal role in the construction project of the airport on Saint Helena, some 2 200 nautical miles northwest of Walvis Bay.

Saint Helena is one of the United Kingdom's last remaining British Overseas Territories and the UK is seeking for the island to become economically independent, hence the necessity for an airport to stimulate tourism and imports and exports.

ComAir is expected to operate a Boe-

ing 737 with a capacity for 138 passengers between Johannesburg and the Island on a once a week basis. Currently the island is only accessible by sea route between Cape Town and the capital Jamestown with the world's last remaining mail ship, the Royal Mail Ship St. Helena.

In contrast to several days for the ship to reach the island, the Comair flight between Johannesburg and Saint Helena would last just under four hours.