

St Helena

and an outstanding workforce. Basil Read currently has a core in-house workforce of 25 Basil Read employees on site, however, the majority of employees for this contract are recruited from the island and it is expected to peak at around 250 people," stated the Basil Read St Helena Airport Project website. Ngwenya, a Jehovah's Witness, has also mentioned that he spends most of his time away from work at church.

"Every Sunday I go to Kingdom Hall and then I go to the full service. I also go to Kingdom Hall on Tuesday's and Thursday's, he said.

Ngwenya also has to stay on the island for long periods of time based on a contractual basis. "I took a year's contract to work on the island. I am very grateful for the support of my friends and family who are willing to let me work so far abroad. "I speak to my wife every day and we encourage each other to stay strong. I cannot just abandon my contract because I miss my family. It's important that I provide for them." Ngwenya has six children for whom he has to provide and he believes they are his biggest blessing.

Ncolo (19), Thabile (14), Thami (12), Samkelo (7), Alusha (3) and Brian (10 months) make up the Ngwenya siblings and their dad is extremely proud of them. "My greatest wealth is my family. After the airport is finished I want to bring my wife here so she can experience island life with me."

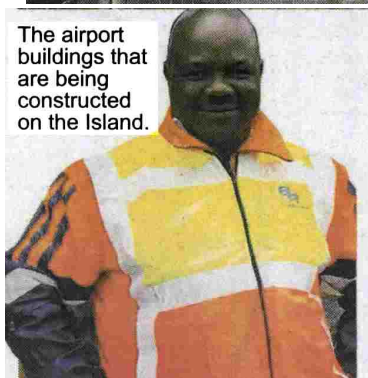
There have been a number of open days on which residents could view the progress at the airport. Completion is scheduled for early 2016.

"I never anticipated that this island would boast an airport in my lifetime but just look at where we are now," said Tony Green, one of the local residents.

Get the latest updates on the project at: <http://www.brshap.co.za/>



The airport buildings that are being constructed on the Island.



James Ngwenya.

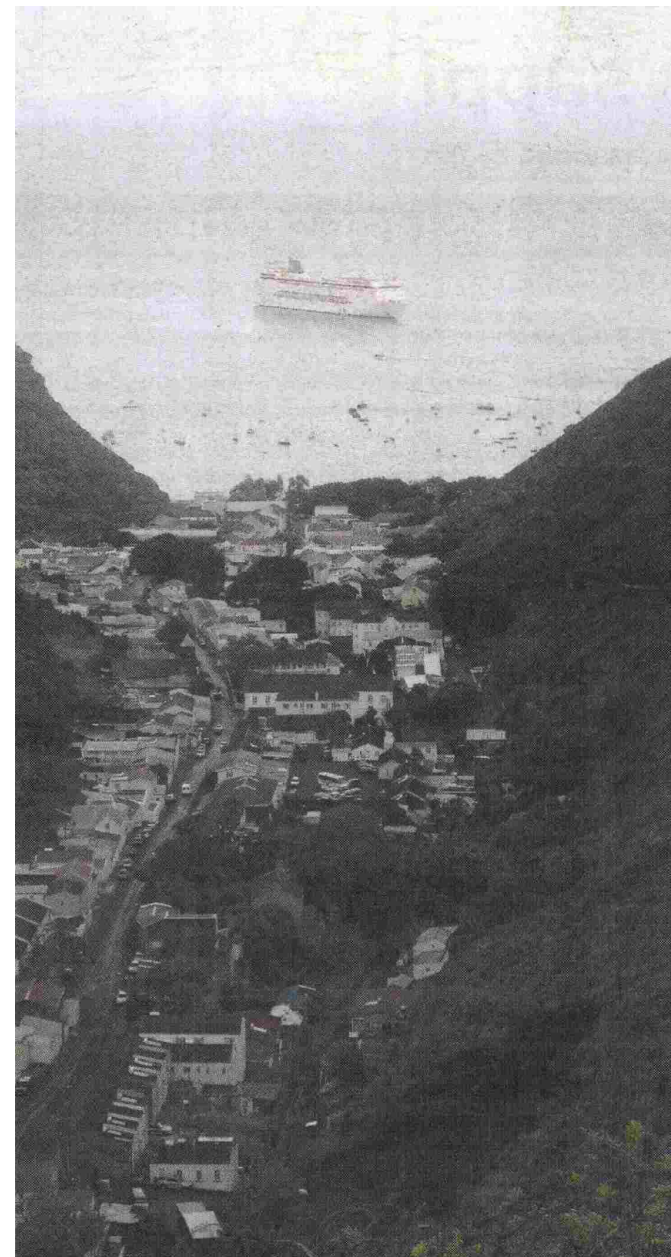


In the background is the RMS ship which is the only means of communication between St Helena and the rest of the world.

The scope of work entails:

- A 1 850m quality concrete runway with a taxiway and apron to cater for aircraft up to the size of an Airbus A320 and Boeing 737-800
- Approximately 8 million m³ rock-fill embankment through which a 750m long reinforced concrete culvert will run
- An airport terminal building of 3 500m² and support infrastructure, air-traffic control and safety, bulk-fuel installation for six million litres of diesel and aviation fuel
- A 14km airport access road, among other logistical factors.

After construction, the operations phase of the airport contract will continue in partnership with Lanseria Airport for a further period of 10 years at an estimated contract value of R450 million.



St Helena and the MSC cruise liner in the distance.