

QAS AVIATION ACADEMY LOOKS BACK ON 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The year is 1995 and South Africa, our country, is reeling from changes that have been taking place, politically, socially, economically and emotionally.

The reality is that ***Change*** is a frightening event, especially where doors had been barred for so long and beyond those doors once opened, was the great unknown.

Well, we turned the handles and opened up those doors and found that we had managed to ***Open Up The Skies to All Our People of South Africa.***

QAS Aviation Academy – 20 years ago, was the very first and only third-party Aviation Training Organisation to be licensed by the SA CAA – ***We Took The Leap.***

IT SOUNDS EASY, JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE THE LEAP.

NO, NOTHING WAS THAT EASY.

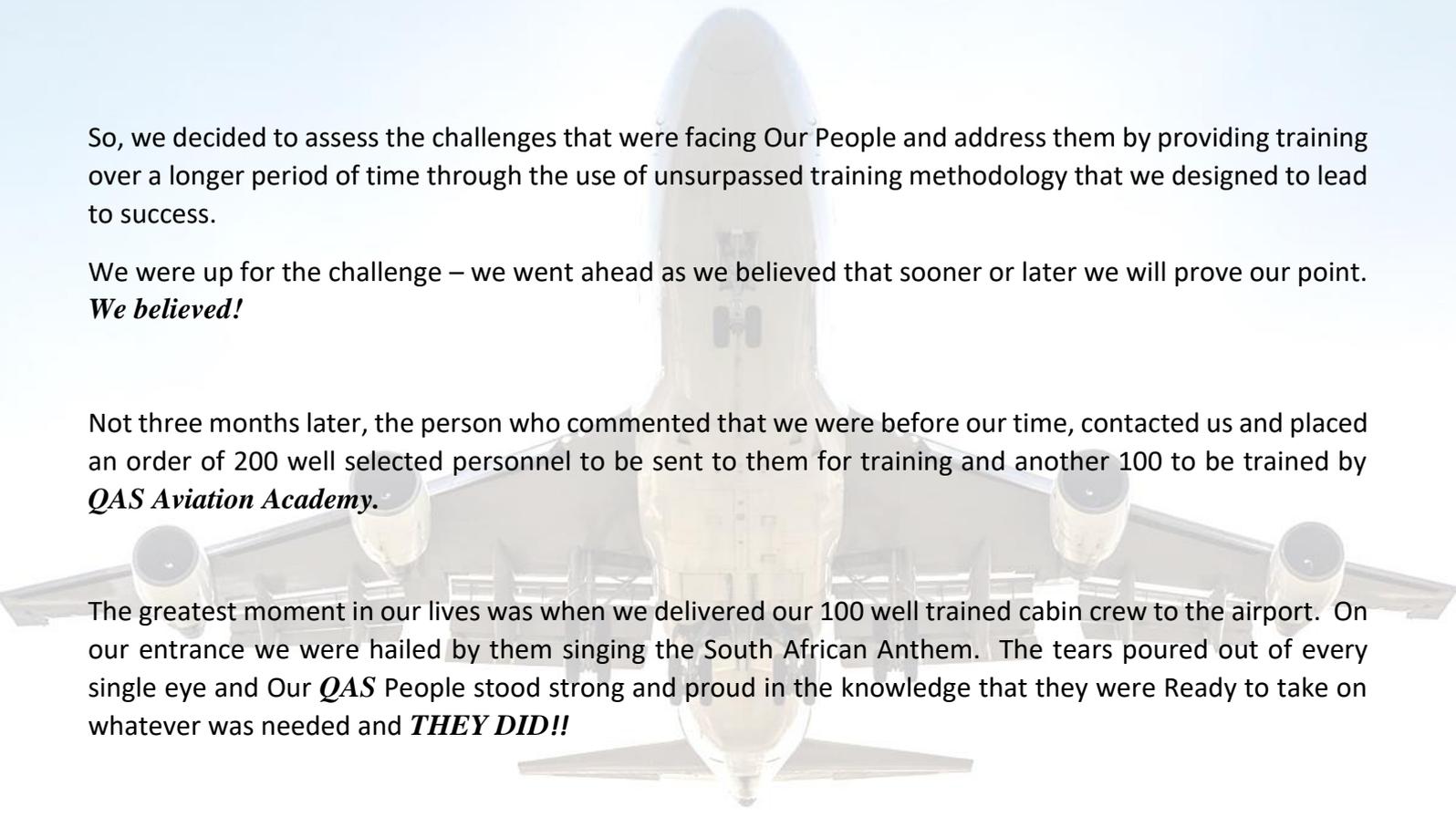
SO, WE RATHER OPENED OUR EYES AND TOOK THE LEAP.

Why did we take this leap?

Firstly, the injustice of the past had to be corrected especially when during our research we were turned away with “excellent” advice like:

- ***It's a good idea but you are way before the right time – No! We felt we were exactly right on our timing!***
- ***These people will never learn this job – Well, all we can say is that we did prove them wrong!***
- ***It is too difficult for these people to learn complex aviation standards –Sorry! Wrong again!***
- ***We don't need your business in aviation – Yes, you do! Well at least you have for the past 20 years.***

Secondly, we had to change not only the attitudes of those long serving people in the Aviation Industry by proving them wrong but also needed to find the calibre of Our People who had passion and the courage to “Jump”, who together with us, were prepared to put heart and soul into learning. They needed to be Fighters and Achievers.



So, we decided to assess the challenges that were facing Our People and address them by providing training over a longer period of time through the use of unsurpassed training methodology that we designed to lead to success.

We were up for the challenge – we went ahead as we believed that sooner or later we will prove our point. ***We believed!***

Not three months later, the person who commented that we were before our time, contacted us and placed an order of 200 well selected personnel to be sent to them for training and another 100 to be trained by ***QAS Aviation Academy.***

The greatest moment in our lives was when we delivered our 100 well trained cabin crew to the airport. On our entrance we were hailed by them singing the South African Anthem. The tears poured out of every single eye and Our ***QAS*** People stood strong and proud in the knowledge that they were Ready to take on whatever was needed and ***THEY DID!!***

This was the beginning, then the second request followed by the third and fourth requests from our airlines started coming through followed by international airlines.

I was honoured to meet Mr Mandela at my daughter's school where he was also attending a function with his granddaughter and he said these amazing words:

“THANK YOU MARIA”

I had no idea how he knew about us and was too overwhelmed to ask. He smiled and said – “Don't worry I have only heard good about what you have achieved” – wordlessly I just smiled – I had no idea what he was thanking me for and anyway what can one say to such a Great Man.

Many months later on I was told by a few of our cabin crew that he had asked them where they had been trained to such excellent standards – well I suppose you can guess their answer – Thank you guys – continue to make yourselves and our country proud.



So, now 20 years later all that is left for me to say is

“THANK YOU”

- *To the thousands of our past Students and their Parents*
- *To each and every one of you Wonderful Achievers,*
- *To the SA Civil Aviation Authority, who believed in us and supported us in our journey*
- *To the South African Airlines, you know who you are, for taking the leap with us*
- *To those new Aviation Training Organisations that have since taken our model and have also open their doors to the Sky for All the People of South Africa.*

We believe that from our inception we have stood by our *Mission Statement*

- *Add Value to the People of This Generation* and those that follow in the Aviation Industry
- Our candidates *Shall With Pride and Success*, Equal if not Better Worldwide Competitors

We have, *by the Grace of God*, achieved more than Our Dream.