

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Hermes Airports stands together with Sophia Foundation Hippo project comes to Larnaka Airport**

If you are travelling between 13 to 31 of July, twenty special visitors are waiting for you at Larnaka Airport. More precisely and in an effort to support financially the Sophia Foundation, Cypriot artists have created twenty unique hippopotamuses. For the last five years, Sophia Foundation is successfully implementing a charity program namely, "I Cook and Offer" for needy students of Cyprus. The charity program is also supported by Hermes Airports.

The idea for this innovative project that carries the slogan "Let's Hippo" was inspired by Sophia Foundation's stone-made little hippopotamuses, prepared with a lot of love by children in Kenya.

The twenty big hippopotamuses have been "adopted" by an equal number of major Cypriot businesses which, through their funding, also support the continuance of the program "I Cook and Offer" of Sophia Foundation.

In a statement, Ms Marina Shacola, President of the Sophia Foundation, said that *"the 'Let's Hippo' initiative provides substantial financial assistance to our Foundation, a fact which allows us to continue offering smiles to hundreds of children, whilst also supporting their education in decent conditions. We warmly thank Hermes Airports for hosting the 20 hippopotamuses at Larnaka Airport and for its generous donation to the program "I Cook and Offer", through which important support is provided to schools of Larnaka"*.

In a statement, Mrs Maria Kouroupi, Senior Manager Marketing and Communications of Hermes Airports, said that *"we welcome the 'Hippo Project' at Larnaka Airport. We are confident that thousands of passengers will have the opportunity to enjoy a unique spectacle and get some pictures with the 20 big hippopotamuses. In addition",* she said, *"I would like to note that we are very pleased that we have been given the opportunity, through the program "I Cook and Offer" and as part of our corporate*

*social responsibility, to help as far as possible hundreds of students who need support in order to keep their dreams alive and preserve their presence in their schools and lessons without worry, either for themselves or their parents, about their lunches."*

The 20 big hippopotamuses will be located at various central points of Larnaka Airport terminal building, both in the arrivals and departures areas.





**Notes for the Media:**

- Hermes Airports Ltd is the operator of the two International Airports of the Republic of Cyprus. The consortium consists of 9 shareholders comprising of Cypriot and International investors. Overall, more than 10 million passengers travel through Larnaka and Pafos International Airports, annually.
- It is estimated that about 100 additional jobs are created for each additional flight arriving at Cyprus' airports. In total, more than 18,000 jobs in the tourism industry across Cyprus are sustained by the operation of Larnaka and Pafos International Airports. With an annual contribution of more than 650 million Euros to the economy of Cyprus, corresponding to approximately 4% of the Cyprus GDP, Larnaka and Pafos International Airports are justifiably considered to be among the major drivers of economic growth in the country and are acknowledged as key generators of thousands of jobs.
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