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Airlink gets rights to Maputo

FEEDER airline Airlink has been awarded licences to operate two new routes — Johannesburg to Umtata and Durban to Maputo, the carrier said yesterday.

The National Transport Council had granted Airlink the Durban-Maputo route last month, Airlink sales and marketing manager Karin Egly said. SAA had previously held the licence.

The flights from Durban to Maputo offered the only SA air access to the Mozambican capital apart from flights from Jan Smuts Airport. The Mozambican national carrier LAM earlier withdrew from the route, which served mainly businessmen on weekdays and tourists on weekends.

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ers had also applied for the viable route, Egly said.

Airlink operates three return flights a week between the two cities, offering special weekend packages in collaboration with the Polana Hotel in Maputo.

She said schedules for this route would be implemented early next year and a timetable was being formulated. Airlink will use two new 48-seater ATR42 aircraft, bought this year, on both new routes.

Airlink recently entered the Johannesburg-Richards Bay route in competition with Comair. This sparked a price war, leading to a decrease in fares of about 20%.