

## **South African Weather Service hails the importance of the Gough Island**

South African Weather Service's Senior Marine Scientist Marc De Vos says the Gough Island is the most important data centre for South Africa in dealing with climate change.

Mr De Vos was speaking during the send-off ceremony of eleven (11) Public Works artisans and five (5) scientists from the SA Weather Service to the Gough Island. He said the data collected at the Gough Island cannot be underestimated.

"From a source point of view, Gough Island is as important as all our remote stations. I am privileged as a scientist to see the fruits of the people who work in this Island, which is the data they collect," said Mr De Vos.

He said in the context of climate change which is a pressing issue in today's world, the data that is collected from sites such as the Gough Island helps scientists to make weather predictions in order to ensure the well-being of the country and the planet at large.

"On a day-to-day basis, it also allows us to provide our operational products to the Aviation and the shipping industries, and it is because of constant feed of data from Islands such as Gough Island that we can make accurate predictions about the day-to-day systems," said Mr De Vos.

Mr De Vos said the data from the Island is highly important for South Africa, but like any other natural system such as the oceanic system or the atmospheric system, those natural systems don't regard any geographic boundaries and provide value to the world at large.

The Weather Service is sending five (5) scientists and two (2) of those are take-over personnel who will be manning the metrological programme and the three (3) over wintering team members, who will spend a year on Gough Island. `