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Minister gives go-ahead to King Shaka

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Sapa Cape Town - Marthinus van Schalkwyk, the minister of environmental affairs and tourism, has dismissed appeals lodged against the granting of environmental authorisation for building King Shaka International Airport near Durban.

However, he ruled that noise monitoring stations be installed in residential suburbs close to the new airport, which would replace the Durban International Airport and would handle 7.5 million passengers by 2015.

Should noise from the planes taking off and landing be excessive, the onus would be on Airports Company South Africa to act, his office said yesterday.

"Among the mitigation measures proposed is that noise monitoring stations must be placed in the existing affected residential communities, namely Mount Moreland and Herrwood," it said.

The airport is to form part of a greater complex, the Dube TradePort.