



## MY POSTCARD: Refilwe Boikanyo goes up, up and away in the Magaliesberg

“ I HAVE never been afraid of heights — in fact I’ve never put much thought into being lifted off the ground. But when an indemnity form came my way before boarding a flight on a hot air balloon, I began to swell up with fear.

“How safe is it? What happens in the case of an emergency, and what if I get motion sickness?” were the questions that flew through my head.

But all my fears vanished once I stood in the basket, floating 10m above the Magaliesberg. I was distracted by the views of the sun peeping out of the mountains as we ascended into the sky. It was so beautiful that even a camera-phone photographer would struggle to take a bad shot. I was secure enough to focus my energy on greeting people as I soared above their homes, spotting game and capturing the shadow and reflection of the balloon below. The flight was so smooth and scenic that I rejoiced when our pilot announced our flight would be extended by a few minutes. An hour and 15 minutes later, he steered the balloon into a swift landing. When I jumped from the basket I was greeted by his team members who were waiting with champagne and awarded me with a certificate for being adventurous enough to experience the oldest form of flight.

● For more information about Air Ventures Hot Air Ballooning, call 011-793-5782 or 083-356-2435



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