



13 August 2026 | 09:00 – 18:00
CSIR International Convention Centre; Pretoria

Dress Code: **Bright & Beautiful**
in Formal Dress/Suits and Sneakers

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NATIONAL AVIATION GENDER SUMMIT 2026

LIFT AS WE RISE: CONNECT | INNOVATE | GROW

Welcome, and thank you for registering!

We are delighted to confirm your place at the 2026 National Aviation Gender Summit and to welcome you among over 300 Women in Aviation coming together to lift as we rise.

On **13 August 2026**, you will join industry leaders, visionaries, and change-makers for a day of engaging discussions, practical tools, and meaningful connection. Everything is in place to make your experience seamless, inspiring, and rewarding.

Please find enclosed a snippet of the programme and venue details, as well as the link to our website event page where you can find any other updates ahead of the day. If you have any questions, our team is here to help.

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating this movement together!

PROGRAMME SESSION 1

09:00 – 09:10

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: **MS TUMELO MOTHOTOANE**

09:10 - 09:30

WELCOME MESSAGE BY THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, **MS POPPY KHOZA**

09:30 – 09:40

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SACAA BOARD, **ADV. MPATI LEBAKENG**

09:40 – 10:00

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, **MS BARBARA CREECY (TO BE CONFIRMED)**

PROGRAMME SESSION 2

10:00 – 11:00

SELF-CARE AT ALTITUDE: BALANCING HEALTH, CAREER, AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Ms Andile Mtetwa- Amaeshi - Eswatini Director of Civil Aviation; Madam Musayeroh Barrie – Sierra Leone Director of Civil Aviation, Ms Queen Ndlovu – QP Drone Tech Managing Director.

This panel shifts the conversation from the boardroom to the human, as senior women in aviation share personal accounts of how they sustain themselves at the top. We'll explore self-care as real infrastructure, not a luxury: managing energy over time, the health and hormonal realities rarely named in the C-suite, the loneliness of senior leadership, and the constant balancing of caregiving and career. It's an honest look at how to lead — and grow — without burning out or losing yourself along the way.

11:00 – 11:30 TEA BREAK AT THE FOYER

11:30 – 12:30

MASTERCLASS: IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD BY THE AI AMBASSADOR & TECH THOUGHT LEADER, MS CALLAN ABRAHAMS

An introduction to Mastering Technological Trends that are shaping the future of workplaces, businesses, and Aviation. Demonstrate how we can safely integrate these technologies into our various professional lives through engaging activities and case studies.

PROGRAMME SESSION 3

12:30 – 13:30

RUNWAY TABLE TALK: AVIATION TRAINING, RECRUITMENT & EDUCATION

Ms Tendai Ndou – ATNS Academy, Ms Tebello Mokhema – ACI Africa Training and Commercial Academy, Ms Zulu-Siwela - DHET
Mr Elias Phale – TETA, Ms Jabu Kunene – SACAA; Ms Tasneem Goolam – Cobra Aviation

This talk takes an honest look at South Africa's aviation talent pipeline: why it leaks from the classroom to the cockpit and the hangar, and how we fix it. We'll tackle the cost barrier to entry, the school-to-career pathway, whether we're training enough technicians and crew (not just pilots), retaining talent at home, and the skills the industry will need next.

13:30 – 14:30 LUNCH ON THE DECK

PROGRAMME SESSION 3

14:30 – 15:30

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN AVIATION: EXPLORING A GROWTH MINDSET & INTRINSIC MOTIVATION

Ms Sindiswa Mntambo - Aircraft Painter, SAAT; Ms Nthabiseng Malumedza - Accident and Incident Investigator, SACAA; Ms Michelle Green-Thompson - Airport Manager, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Airport; Ms Emma Da Silva - Ground operations manager, Airlink

This session shines a light on the real journeys of women across aviation, from the technical bay to the airport tower. Through candid, personal stories, our panellists share what first drew them to the industry and what made them stay, how they built confidence in spaces where they had to prove themselves, and the support systems and mindset that carried them through. It's a conversation about resilience, motivation, and growth — and the advice each of them would pass on to the next generation of women taking flight.

PROGRAMME SESSION 4

15:30 – 16:00

TEA BREAK IN THE FOYER

16:00 – 17:30

WINGS AND WISDOM: FACILITATED SPEED NETWORKING SESSION

Aim: Introductions - Mentorship and Collaboration opportunities | **Outcome:** Fostering Connectivity beyond the conference - lifting others as we rise and creating a support community for women in aviation.

17:30 – 17:40

VOTE OF THANKS

17:45

END

We hope that you made new connections, had moments of epiphany and grew into an even better version of yourself. When they insist that you're just not good enough, well, you know better - Just look them in the eye and say...I am gonna do it anyway! See you next year, and please leave us with suggestions for improvement.

FEEDBACK: National Aviation Gender Summit 2026 – Fill in form