

Advocating for Aviation Safety,
Security and Sustainability

THE NATIONAL AVIATION CONFERENCE



18-19 April 2024
CSIR International Convention Centre

SPEAKERS PROFILES



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**Advocating for Aviation Safety,
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DAY 2



Keeping you safe in the sky



Programme Director

Ms Tumelo Mothotoane

Senior News Anchor | Moderator | MC

Tumelo Mothotoane is a South African media professional and entrepreneur who is determined to inspire a culture of dialogue between Africa and the world.

With over 13 years of experience as a broadcasting professional, Tumelo's career spans within the community, regional, national to international television and radio broadcasting industry.

Tumelo is a sought-after international Master of Ceremony (MC) and Panel Moderator who facilitates conferences, summits, panel discussions, seminars and awards ceremonies both in South Africa and internationally.



Speaker



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Mr Ernest Khosa

Chairperson of the Board, South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)

TOPIC: Introduction of the Deputy Minister of Transport

Ernest Khosa is the Chairman of the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) Board, Former Chairperson of National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) Board, Chairman of NGO Connect, an NPO responsible for empowering NGO's and communities in matters ranging from skills and relevant services, and the Former Independent Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee of Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO).

He has seven university qualification which are as follows: Master's in development finance and a Master of Arts in development studies from the universities of Manchester and Johannesburg respectively. He has a MPhil Law and LLB from Unisa, Post graduate Diploma in Company Law from Wits, Honours Degree from the University of the Western Cape and Bachelor's degree in Humanities from Turfloop.

He served two terms as SRC President at University of Limpopo, where in collaboration with imminent leaders such as Bishop Tutu, Helen Suzman, Frank Chikane and Prof. Jakes Gerwel led a successful campaign for the removal of soldiers who had camped at Turfloop for 3 years.

He was Chief Executive of the Mpumalanga Finance Corporation and the Mpumalanga Economic Empowerment Corporation. Prior to this, he was head of Corporate Services at the Land Bank and OUTSPAN international. He has worked as a researcher for the universities of Cape Town, Western Cape, and Pretoria.

He has served on various boards of state institutions such as the Perishable Export Control Board and has chaired a state-initiated commission. He served on various task teams aimed at developing government policy and has been appointed to serve on committees aimed at transforming and restructuring government departments and agencies.

As chairman of Mavone Consulting he has in his capacity advised and consulted for companies such as Bouygues (France, Transport sector), Shaft Sinkers (Mining Sector), and various state institutions in areas ranging from business rescue to compliance and transformation. He has published two books: Beautiful Fools and Studying under the barrel of a gun. The former laments the deficiency of leadership in Africa and the latter is an autobiography detailing the role of student leadership in resisting Apartheid in the 1980s.

Mr Khosa is also the General Secretary of RIXAKA Forum, an NPO advocating for the use of identity as a force for nation building as opposed to using same as a force for exclusion and division.



Speaker

Mr Lisa Mangcu

Deputy Minister of Transport, Department of Transport (DOT)

Keynote Address by the Deputy Minister of Transport



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Speaker



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Prof. John Lamola

Chief Executive Officer, South African Airways (SAA)

Panel Discussion: Aviation Captains Lekgotla: Sustainable Development in Africa

John Maleselo Lamola is the Chief Executive Officer at South African Airways (SAA). He retains the position of Associate Professor of Philosophy of Technology at the University of Johannesburg. Professor Lamola obtained his PhD from Edinburgh University and an MBA from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach, USA). He is a rated researcher (C2) with the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) and a professional member of the Society on Social Implications of Technology of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - USA). Prior to his return to full-time academic life he built and managed a proprietary private equity investment portfolio that included holdings in aviation and internet technologies. He was CEO at Denel Aviation, (1996 – 2001) before serving on the Board (2012-2017) of Airports Company South Africa (ACSA). Prof. Lamola served as Chairman of the Board of South African Airways (SAA) since July 2021 and served a dual role as Chief Executive Officer from May 2022 to April 2023.



Speaker

Ms Nozipho Mdawe

Chief Executive Officer, Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS)

Panel Discussion: Aviation Captains Lekgotla: Sustainable Development in Africa



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Speaker

Ms Mpumi Mpofu

Chief Executive Officer, Airports Company South Africa (ACSA)



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Panel Discussion: Aviation Captains Lekgotla: Sustainable Development in Africa

Nompumelelo (Mpumi) Z. Mpofu is the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director, member of the Social and Ethics Committee and the Board Investment Committee at Airports Company South Africa. She was appointed Chief Executive Officer from 1 February 2020.

As leader of the company she is responsible for strategy implementation in all its facets. Mpofu is further responsible for the company's reputation and to ensure that it is known for what it has achieved and what it can do.

Mpofu joined Airports Company South Africa from the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency where she was Director-General. She previously held three other positions of National Director-General in the Departments of Defence, Department of Transport and Department of Housing and her extensive experience spanning over 25 years.

She has served on numerous Boards as Chairman of Joburg Fresh Produce Market, Joburg Metro Bus, and as member of Board of Mvelaphanda Group, Municipal Demarcation Board the National Housing Board, the Gauteng Development Tribunal, the National Housing Finance Corporation, National Home Builders Registration Council.



Speaker

Mr George Mothema

Chief Executive Officer, Board of Airline Representatives of South Africa (BARSA)

Panel Discussion: Aviation Captains Lekgotla: Sustainable Development in Africa



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Speaker



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Ms Gabo Esther Khambule

Senior Manager: Aviation Meteorology, South African Weather Service (SAWS)

TOPIC: Aviation Captains Lekgotla: Sustainable Development in Africa

Gabo Esther Khambule is the Senior Manager and head of national aeronautical meteorological services within the South African Weather Service. She holds an MBA degree A seasoned and recognized expert on aeronautical Meteorology, contributing to the global agenda at both the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

She is a member of the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa (IoDSA) and served as a Board member of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) for two terms ending Aug 2018. A member of the National Committee of Data (CODATA) for Science and Technology under the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). She was a finalist in the CEO Meritorious Awards event of "Most Influential Women in Business and Government in Aug 2012. and is the chair of the Advisory Committee for Aeronautical Meteorology (ACAMS).





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TEA/COFFEE BREAK

Speaker

Ms Chinga Mazhetese

Regional Officer: ENV & MET, ICAO Regional Office

TOPIC: Unpacking Sustainable Aviation Fuels

Chinga is a Regional Officer at the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Office, situated in Nairobi, Kenya. She is responsible for supporting 24 Member States in the Region with implementing the ICAO requirements for Environmental Protection and Aeronautical Meteorology (MET). Prior to joining ICAO, she was an Environmental Protection Specialist at the South African Civil Aviation Authority. She holds an honours degree in applied environmental science and studied environmental engineering at the post-graduate level.



Moderator



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Mr Gawie Bestbier

Executive: Aviation Safety Infrastructure, South African Civil Aviation Authority

Panel Discussion: Industry Perspective on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)

Mr Gawie Bestbier has an Electronic Engineering Degree, obtained from the University of Stellenbosch in 1988. He joined the Department of Transport in 1989, as Engineer: Radar and Display Systems and subsequently joined the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) in 1998, as Senior Manager responsible for Aerodrome Safety Oversight and as a founding staff member.

For the past 34 years he worked in civil aviation and gained substantial experience of the entire civil aviation system, including Air Traffic Control, Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Systems (CNS), Flight Operations, Flight Calibration and Aircraft Accident Investigations.

Since 2007 he is the Executive responsible for Aviation Safety Infrastructure at the SACAA. He is also responsible for Airports, Airspace, CNS, Procedure Design and Cartography, Aeronautical Information Services, Aviation Meteorology and Aviation Environmental Compliance.



Speaker

Mr Dumisani Nkala

Executive: Aviation, Petro SA



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Panel Discussion: Industry Perspective on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)

Speaker



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Mr Sandile Chipunza

*Manager External Affairs & Sustainability,
International Air Transport Association (IATA)*

Panel Discussion: Industry Perspective on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)

Sandile Chipunza is IATA's Manager – External Affairs & Sustainability - Africa and is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

His responsibilities include ensuring that IATA's members' priorities and needs are met and promoting its products and services to contribute to meeting Industry expectations as set out by IATA's Board and Leadership.

Central to this role is solid Advocacy for the value that connectivity through Aviation contributes to the African Continents economy and contributes expertise in Aviation Industry solutions.

Prior to taking up the role of Manager – External Affairs & Sustainability – Africa, Sandile was Manager, Advocacy & Strategic Relations, Africa from being an Aviation Solutions Manager for Southern Africa. Before IATA, Sandile was with Airlink as a Regional Manager - Africa for seven (7) years, after also spending seven (7) years with SAA setting up new SAA managed operations in Zimbabwe and Zambia. He has a over 25 years' Experience in both Aviation and Travel & Tourism Sectors.



Speaker

Mr Farai Chireshe

Energy Analyst & Project Officer, WWF South Africa



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TOPIC: Industry Perspective on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Farai Chireshe is a sustainability professional with expertise in bioprocessing and analysing energy transition technologies. He holds degrees in Chemical Engineering from the Universities of Pretoria and Stellenbosch. His work includes supporting sustainable practices and promoting the development of new green industries in line with a just and equitable transition. Farai collaborates with multiple stakeholders to establish sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) ecosystems and has contributed to the development of a blueprint for SAF production in South Africa. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Chemical Engineering, focusing on developing robust value chains for SAF production in the local sugarcane industry.



Speaker

Ms Evelyn Shogole

Aviation Environmental Compliance Specialist, South African Civil Aviation Authority

TOPIC: State Action Plan (SAP)



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Dr Bernice Mashapu

Senior Medical Assessor, SACAA

Fireside Chat on Mental Health in Aviation

Dr Bernice Mashaphu is a Senior Aviation Medical Assessor at SACAA. She is a qualified Occupational and Public Health Practitioner. She served in the Certification Committee at the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases and in the South African Social Security Agency Medical Reviewing Committee. She has special interest in Complementary and Alternative Medicine.



Speaker

Dr Anersha Pillay

Psychiatrist, SACAA Medical Panel



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TOPIC: Fireside Chat on Mental Health in Aviation

Dr Pillay graduated from WITS University in 1995 with her MBBCh. Following her internship at CHBH, she worked in Psychiatry (primarily Neuropsychiatry) in the UK for three years, returning to specialise in Psychiatry in 2000. She completed her FCPSYCH in 2003 and commenced employment as a Specialist consultant at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital from 2004 -2017. She completed her MMED in Psychiatry in 2013. She was granted subspecialist registration as a Neuropsychiatrist in 2015. Dr Pillay is currently in full-time private practice at the Life Riverfield Lodge Hospital and the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre. She has special interests in Neuropsychiatry training, Psychoneuroimmunology, Epilepsy and TBI. She has played an active role in the South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP), where she has served various leadership roles including that of Honorary Treasurer from 2021-2023. She is the current President-Elect. She also serves as a specialist Neuropsychiatrist on the Aeromedical Committee of the SACAA.



Speaker

Col Andrea Hemke

Aviation Human Factors Specialist, Mayday SA

TOPIC: Fireside Chat on Mental Health in Aviation



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Speaker

Mr Rhys Evans

Managing Director, ALCO-SAFE (Pty) Ltd

TOPIC: Fireside Chat on Mental Health in Aviation



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Speaker

Mr Bulelwa Koyana

Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee, SACAA Board

Vote of Thanks



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