

# THE NATIONAL AVIATION CONFERENCE 2026

**PROGRAMME** | 6-7 May 2026 | Emperors' Palace, Convention Centre, Assembly Hall

# Day 1 – Wednesday, 6 May 2026

## SESSION 1 SUSTAINABILITY

### 09:00 OPENING REMARKS

09:10 Welcome and Purpose Address

09:25 Message of Support

09:30 Message of Support

09:35 Global Developments on Sustainable Aviation Fuels

10:05 Sustainable Skies: Policy and Practice: Strengthening Collaborations between the government and industry to promote sustainable practices in aviation

The objective of this panel is to critically examine and discuss the current practices and technologies utilised in the aviation industry to promote sustainability. We aim to explore potential governmental policies and incentives that could drive the adoption of sustainable practices within the sector. Additionally, we will analyse successful government-industry collaborations, identifying how these partnerships can be leveraged to advance sustainable aviation initiatives. Finally, we will focus on identifying viable funding sources for sustainable aviation projects and strategies to attract private investments in green technologies.

**Programme Director:** Ms Leanne Mannas

Ms Poppy Khoza: Director of Civil Aviation, SACAA

Mr Emanuel Chaves: Director General, IACM

Ms Andile Mtetwa: Director General, ESWACAA

Mr Frankline Omondi: Aviation Expert, AFCAC

Ms Leanne Mannas: Programme Director

- Ms Nompumelelo Mpofu: Chief Executive Officer, Airports Company South Africa
- Mr Aaron Munetsi: Chief Executive Officer, AASA
- Mr George Mothema: Chief Executive Officer, BARS
- Mr Kevin Storie: Chief Executive Officer, CAASA
- Mr Matome Moholola: Acting Chief Executive Officer, ATNS

# Day 1 – Wednesday, 6 May 2026

## SESSION 2 TECHNOLOGY

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| 11:30 | Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for operational efficiency, safety improvements, and customer experience in the aviation industry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ms Kim Macaulay: Chief Information & Data Officer, IATA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12:00 | <p>Transitioning to the Future: Challenges and opportunities in adopting Advanced Air Mobility solutions in urban environments</p> <p>The objective of this discussion is to examine the primary challenges urban areas face in integrating Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) solutions into existing transportation systems. We will identify and analyse the key regulatory hurdles that must be addressed for AAM to become a viable option in urban environments. Additionally, we will explore how safety and security concerns influence the adoption of AAM in congested urban areas. Finally, we aim to identify future trends that are expected to shape the landscape of Advanced Air Mobility in cities over the next decade.</p> | <p>Mr Sam Thwala: Accountable Manager, Ntsu Aviation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Shaun Ledlie: Board Member, Drone Council SA and President of AATOSA</li><li>• Mr Siphamandla Mhlanga, Senior Manager: Flight Operations, SACAA</li><li>• Mr Francois Barwise: Manager, UAS Operations and Airspace Integration, ATNS</li><li>• Ms Mary Chirwa: Civil Engineer and Researcher, CSIR</li></ul> |
| 13:00 | <b>NETWORKING LUNCH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14:00 | The Latest Advancements in Meteorology and how they can be utilised to enhance aviation safety                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mr Albert Moloto: Senior Manager, Aviation, South African Weather Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# Day 1 – Wednesday, 6 May 2026

## SESSION 3 SAFETY

14:30 Aviation Safety in Focus: What the Data Tells Us

Mr Themba Thabethe: Executive, Accident and Incident Investigations

**15:00 TEA BREAK**

15:30 The Impact of Safety Management Systems' Maturity on the Rollout of Risk-Based Oversight

This panel discussion is about practical realities - where organisations truly are on the SMS maturity scale, how prepared the industry feels for Risk-Based Oversight, and what challenges and opportunities lie ahead.

**Opening Presentation:** Ms Cathy Teague: Manager, Exemptions and Regulations Dev, SACAA

Mr Obert Chakarisa: Executive Manager, Standards & Compliance, FLYSFAIR

- Mr Dean Khumalo: Executive, Aviation Safety Operations, SACAA
- Mr Morgan Chikurune: Executive Manager, AMO, Airlink
- Mr Vhutshilo Tshitangano: HoD: Quality, Safety and Risk, SAAT
- Mr Moses Seroto: Airport Manager, Bram Fischer International Airport
- Mr Vaughn Gruneberg: Flight Safety and OHSE Manager, Solenta Aviation

# Day 1 – Wednesday, 6 May 2026

## SESSION 3 SAFETY

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16:30 | The Status of Training and Testing in South Africa                                         | Dr Paul Phooko: Executive, Safety Standards and Assurance (Acting), SACAA |
|       | Raising the bar: Why Mandatory Ground School requirements strengthen Safety in SA Aviation | Prof Angelo Dube: Chief Executive Officer, Flying Jurist                  |
| 17:00 | Programme Director's Day 1 Closing Remarks                                                 |                                                                           |
| 17:05 | <b>DAY 1: ENDS</b>                                                                         |                                                                           |

# Day 2 – Thursday, 7 May 2026

## SESSION 4 SECURITY

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| 09:00 | Day 2 Opening Remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ms Phindiwe Gwebu: Executive, Corporate Services, SACAA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 09:05 | Border Management Integration In Aviation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mr Nicolaas Makey: Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Port Commander ORTIA, BMA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 09:30 | The Current Status Of Aviation Cybersecurity In South Africa: Regulatory Developments And Emerging Trends.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mr Given Shingange: Avsec Risk Management Specialist, SACAA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10:00 | <p>Cyber Resilience in Aviation: Building frameworks to protect aviation infrastructure from cyber threats while ensuring safety and trust.</p> <p>The objective of this discussion is to explore the multifaceted approach required to enhance cybersecurity in the aviation sector. We aim to examine the role of collaborations between industry stakeholders, government entities, and cybersecurity firms in fortifying infrastructure security. We will review the existing regulations governing aviation cybersecurity and assess the necessity for modernised frameworks to keep pace with evolving threats. The discussion will also evaluate how implementing robust cybersecurity measures can improve overall operational efficiency and performance in the aviation industry.</p> | <p>Dr Nombulelo Lekota: Chief Technology Officer, Nkechi Consulting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Nhlanhla Mabaso: Chief Information Officer, ATNS</li><li>• Ms Dikeledi Mzimba: AVSEC Risk Management Specialist, SACAA and Chair of the ICAO Cyber Security Panel</li><li>• Mr Dietmar Maggraff: Cyber Security Consultant, Blueflare Consulting</li><li>• Ms Lyverne Prinsloo: Lead Cybersecurity Consultant</li></ul> |

11:00

TEA BREAK

# Day 2 – Thursday, 7 May 2026

## SESSION 5 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & WELLBEING

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| 11:30 | Measuring NGAP Outcomes: Enhancing Skill Development and Articulation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ms Thobile Massoa: Executive, Human Capital, SACAA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12:00 | The Impact of Mental Health on Safety and Performance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dr Lize Weich: Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer, University of Stellenbosch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12:30 | <p>Enhancing Mental Wellness in Aviation: Prioritising Wellbeing for Safety and Performance</p> <p>The objective of this panel discussion is to explore the integration of new technologies in supporting mental health initiatives specifically for aviation professionals, assess the effectiveness of peer support in addressing mental health issues within the aviation community, evaluate the contribution of resilience training to job performance and mental wellness in high-stress environments, and identify methods for organizations to measure the success of mental wellness initiatives and their impact on employee well-being.</p> | <p>Dr Mvuyiso Talatala: Head of Psychiatry, Baragwanath Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Jaco vd Westhuizen: Chief Executive Officer, Mayday SA</li><li>• Capt. Carl Bollweg: Regional Vice-President, IFALPA AFI</li><li>• Dr Lesego Bogatsu: Senior Manager, Aviation Medicine, SACAA</li><li>• Mr Eric Bodenstein: Manager, Aviation Safety, SAFAIR</li><li>• Dr Mirriam Kganya: Clinical Psychologist</li></ul> |

# Day 2 – Thursday, 7 May 2026

## SESSION 6 CLOSING CEREMONY

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|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00 | Introduction of the Minister                                                | Adv. Mphati Lebakeng: Board Chairperson, SACAA                      |
| 14:15 | Keynote Address                                                             | Ms Barbara Creecy: Minister of Transport<br>Department of Transport |
| 14:45 | Key Outcomes of the National Aviation Conference 2026 and<br>Vote of Thanks | Ms Poppy Khoza: Director of Civil Aviation,<br>SACAA                |
| 14:55 | Closing Remarks                                                             |                                                                     |
| 15:00 | <b>NETWORKING LUNCH   END OF CONFERENCE</b>                                 |                                                                     |