



WE LIFT AS WE RISE:
connect | innovate | grow

13 August 2026 | CSIR International Convention Centre

SPEAKER PROFILES

Ms Tumelo Mothotoane | Media Broadcaster and MC

An award-winning international broadcaster, Tumelo's voice has resonated across leading platforms like eNCA, SABC News, Power987 FM, and Channel Africa. She's helmed flagship shows such as SA Tonight, Morning Live, NewsLink, and #Africa with Tumelo Mothotoane, winning over audiences with her sharp intellect, on-air poise, and unmistakable presence.

Her transition from studio to stage has been seamless. Tumelo brings the same polish, precision, and quick-thinking that make her a standout on-screen to every live event she leads. Her ability to read a room, pivot with ease, and connect authentically with diverse audiences has made her the trusted face of countless high-level conferences, government forums, and international awards ceremonies. She's shared stages with world leaders, top executives, diplomats, and innovators, always holding her own with grace and authority.

With accolades including Best Female and Best New Presenter from Soweto TV, a Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans recognition, and a SAFTA nomination for Best TV Presenter, her work speaks for itself. She's been featured in Forbes Woman and Forbes Africa as one of the continent's leading media voices – respected, influential, and undeniably magnetic.



Ms Tumelo Mothotoane

WELCOME MESSAGE

Ms Poppy Khoza | Director of Civil Aviation **South African Civil Aviation Authority**

Ms Poppy Khoza is the Director of Civil Aviation at the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), currently serving her third term in the role. A distinguished aviation regulator and strategic leader, she has guided the SACAA to sustained organisational excellence, with the Authority receiving the Best Performing Institution in Transport Award on four occasions and achieving eleven clean audits over thirteen financial years from the Auditor-General South Africa, reflecting strong governance, effective regulatory oversight, and institutional stability.

Ms Khoza is internationally recognised for advancing transformation and gender equality within the aviation sector. Under her leadership, the SACAA has achieved a workforce comprising 51% women and 50% female representation at Executive Management level. In partnership with ICAO, UNESCO and UN Women, she played a leading role in conceptualising and hosting the first Global Aviation Gender Summit in South Africa in August 2018, reinforcing South Africa's contribution to global efforts promoting diversity, inclusion, and the development of future aviation leaders.



Ms Poppy Khoza

INTRODUCTION OF THE MINISTER

Adv Mpati Lebakeng | Board Chairperson **South African Civil Aviation Authority**

Advocate Mpati Qofa Lebakeng is a distinguished legal practitioner and executive with over 21 years of experience across aviation, litigation, regulatory law, corporate governance, and strategic leadership. She is a practising Advocate of the High Court of South Africa, with extensive experience in the High Court, Labour Court, Supreme Court of Appeal, and Constitutional Court. She also serves as an Acting Judge of the High Court and the Labour Court, contributing to the administration of justice at the highest level.

She is a Board Chairperson of the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), where she plays a central role in aviation governance, safety oversight, regulatory compliance, and strategic direction aligned with both South African and international aviation standards. Advocate Lebakeng brings deep aviation sector expertise, strengthened by multiple certifications through the International Air Transport Association (IATA), including Aviation Law for Route Development, Network and Fleet Planning, Aviation Strategy, and Negotiation. Her work integrates legal precision with operational insight, enabling her to contribute meaningfully to aviation policy, airline sustainability, and sector transformation.

Her executive leadership includes serving as Chief Legal Officer of South African Airways (SAA) during a critical turnaround period, where she advised the Board and Executive on complex aviation regulatory frameworks, ICAO compliance, high-stakes litigation, and commercial strategy. She played a key role in strategic negotiations and in ensuring alignment with global aviation standards.



Adv Mpati Lebakeng

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ms Barbara Creecy | Minister of Transport **Department of Transport**

Ms Barbara Creecy was appointed as Minister of Transport from 3 July 2024, in the new Government of National Unity. Ms Creecy served as the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the Republic of South Africa between 2019 and 2024. In November 2019, Ms Creecy was also elected as the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

Ms Creecy is one of the leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) and currently serves as a member of the National Executive Committee and National Working Committee. Ms Creecy was one of the longest-serving Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature. She joined the legislature in 1994, and until 2004, served in different portfolios including Deputy Chief Whip as well as Chairperson of the Social Development and Education Committees.

2004 – 2009 Member of the Executive Council for Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

2009 – 2014 Member of the Executive Council for Education.

2014 – 2019 Member of the Executive Council for Finance.

Minister Creecy holds an Honours Degree in Political Science from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of London.



Ms Barbara Creecy

LEADERSHIP PANEL

Self-Care at Altitude: Balancing Health, Career, and Personal Growth

Ms Andile Mtetwa | Director General Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority

Ms Andile Mtetwa is the Director General of the Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority (ESWACAA) and Chief Executive Officer responsible for the country's civil aviation regulation, international airports and air navigation services. As the first woman to lead the Authority in Eswatini, she brings more than two decades of experience across the aviation value chain, having held leadership positions in both the airline industry and civil aviation regulation.

She has also contributed to advancing women's participation in aviation beyond her national role, having been appointed by COMESA to lead regional awareness initiatives promoting gender equality and aviation careers for women across Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region.

Under her leadership, ESWACAA has strengthened aviation safety and security oversight while intentionally expanding opportunities for women in technical and leadership roles. Her perspective is shaped by experience at the operational, regulatory and regional policy levels with a strong focus on translating commitments into measurable results.



Ms Andile Mtetwa

LEADERSHIP PANEL

Self-Care at Altitude: Balancing Health, Career, and Personal Growth



Ms Queen Ndlovu | CEO and Founder QP Drone Tech

Ms Queen Ndlovu is the CEO and Founder of QP Drone Tech Pty (Ltd) commonly known as QP. She is also the Managing Director of South Africa Flying Labs (SAFL), a Tech4Good vehicle based in Switzerland and forms part of the Flying Labs global chapter. Before pivoting to Technology, Ms Ndlovu had been a serial Entrepreneur for about 21 years, focusing on building TVET colleges, maritime business and managing consulting work amongst others.

QP Drone Tech has become a Thought Leader in using drones, AI, and GIS in Disaster Risk. QP has since diversified its services to Defence and Security. Ms Ndlovu is a multi-award winner: She is recognised as the Top 100 Influential Women In Tech in 2026. She received an Innovation Award presented by the President of South Africa, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa in 2024 and a Humanitarian Award in Washington, D.C. (2023) amongst others.

She has been featured by media houses including BBC, Power FM, Radio 702 eNCA. She is also an internationally published drone author that became number 1 seller on Amazon in the US and UK in 2021.

Ms Queen is a sought-after speaker and a guest lecturer at Wits Business School and GIBS. Academically, Ms Ndlovu is currently pursuing her PhD in drone adoption in the mining environment with WBS. She holds a Master's degree in Entrepreneurship from Wits Business School (WBS) and an Executive course in global entrepreneurship from Peking University, China as well as the certificate of international business with AHS, Germany. She is a member of Women In Defence, Defence Aviation Committee and South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence (AMD).



Ms Queen Ndlovu



AI MASTERCLASS

It's a whole new world!

Ms Callan Abrahams | CEO & AI Adoption Expert Sparc Innovation

Ms Callan Abrahams is the CEO and AI adoption specialist of Sparc Innovation, a company focused on the responsible design and implementation of artificial intelligence systems. She is the Former Executive: Artificial Intelligence and Principal AI Consultant at iOCO, with earlier consulting and ownership roles spanning data, AI, analytics, governance and stakeholder engagement.

Ms Abrahams is a Data, Emerging Tech and Youth-Focused Keynote Speaker represented by The Speakers Firm since July 2023. She is a human-first facilitator who translates complex technology into practical language, decisions and behaviours for non-technical audiences

She holds a BSc in Mathematics and Economic Science from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Ms Callan Abrahams

RUNWAY TABLE TALK

Aviation Training, Recruitment & Education

Ms Tendani Ndou | Chief Aviation Training Academy Officer Air Traffic and Navigation Services

Tendani Ndou is a seasoned executive with over 22 years of senior leadership experience in strategic management, corporate governance, risk management, internal audit, and organisational transformation across the aviation and public sectors.

Ms Ndou serves as President of the Association of African Aviation Training Organisations (AATO) and is internationally recognised for advancing aviation education and capacity development across Africa. As Chief Aviation Training Academy Officer at the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) Academy, she has led the Academy to achieve the prestigious ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Platinum Accreditation, multiple IATA Premier Circle recognitions, and several Best Aviation Training Academy (Medium to Large) National Civil Aviation Industry Awards. Under her leadership, the Academy has expanded its training footprint to more than 36 countries.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in Cost and Management Accounting from the University of Venda, a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education from the University of South Africa (UNISA), and an MBA from Georgetown University in partnership with ESADE Business School. She is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and a member of the Institute of Directors South Africa (IoDSA).



Ms Tendani Ndou

RUNWAY TABLE TALK

Aviation Training, Recruitment & Education

Ms Tebello Mokhema | Head: ACSA Aviation Academy **Airports Company South Africa**

Tebello Mokhema epitomizes the quintessential global professional—a visionary leader, esteemed educator, and dynamic speaker with over two decades of expertise in human capital management across diverse industries. Holding esteemed positions as a non-executive director in sectors spanning education, investment, and aviation. Tebello is revered for her prowess in leadership development and project management on an international scale. Her stellar track record in organisational development and training propelled her to the forefront of the global stage, where she was seconded to spearhead the establishment of a regional office for the Airports Council International (ACI) Africa, showcasing her ability to drive initiatives to fruition on a regional and global scale. Renowned for her unparalleled business acumen and adeptness in navigating multifaceted demands, Tebello is celebrated for her strategic insight and exceptional interpersonal skills. Armed with a unique blend of intuition and analytical prowess, she adeptly navigates complex challenges to deliver solutions-oriented outcomes. Tebello's profound love for the African continent and its people permeates her work ethic, characterised by maturity and cultural sensitivity. With extensive international experience, including stints in Morocco and various esteemed organisations in South Africa, she embodies true cosmopolitanism. Holding a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Philosophy from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she has honed her strategic expertise through completing the management development programme at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the executive development programme at Gordon Institute of Business. Tebello's extensive experience in human capital development has led to her current role as Head of the ACSA Aviation Academy which is the premier training institution for the aviation industry across Africa and beyond. Her passion for development of communities through the empowerment of women has led to becoming President of a global women empowerment organisation, Female Wave of Change. Tebello's core competencies encompass human capital management, performance management, business leadership, stakeholder management, and corporate social investment management, positioning her as a versatile and sought-after professional in the global arena."



Ms Tebello Mokhema

RUNWAY TABLE TALK

Aviation Training, Recruitment & Education

Mr Gaborone Lesito | Acting Chief Operations Officer Transport Education & Training Authority

Mr Gaborone P. Lesito is the Acting Chief Operations Officer at the Transport Education Training Authority (TETA), where he provides strategic leadership in organisational performance, operations, governance, and skills development across South Africa's transport sector. Since 2018, he has also served as Executive Officer for the Aerospace Chamber, leading industry partnerships, sector skills planning, policy implementation, and workforce development initiatives that support the transformation and competitiveness of the aerospace industry.

With more than 30 years of leadership experience, Mr. Lesito has served in senior roles across the public sector, state-owned enterprises, the SETA environment, and private consulting. His previous positions include Senior Manager: Organisational Development at South African Airways Technical (SAAT), Manager: Learning at South African Airways (SAA), Project Manager at CATHSSETA, Senior Application Project Manager at SITA, and senior training and organisational development roles at the Road Accident Fund, SITA, and Lompec College.

Mr. Lesito has extensive expertise in organisational development, human capital management, skills planning, stakeholder engagement, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and corporate governance. He has successfully led transformation initiatives and forged strategic partnerships between government, industry, and education institutions to strengthen South Africa's skills development system.

He holds an Executive MBA in Aviation from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and a Postgraduate Diploma (Honours) in Practical Theology from the University of Pretoria. He is currently pursuing a Master of Public Management (MPM), with research focusing on transformation in South Africa's aerospace workforce through skills development.



Mr Gaborone Lesito

RUNWAY TABLE TALK

Aviation Training, Recruitment & Education

Ms Cikizwa Matsika | Head: Corporate Affairs **Cobra Aviation Group**

Ms Cikizwa Matsika is a South African aviation executive serving as the Head of Corporate Affairs at Cobra Aviation Group, where she leads the company's corporate affairs strategy, stakeholder engagement, corporate communications, public relations, and strategic partnerships. With a strong understanding of the aviation industry, she is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with government, regulators, industry associations, clients, and strategic partners, ensuring effective collaboration that supports the growth and sustainability of the aviation sector. She plays a key role in strengthening Cobra Aviation Group's corporate reputation, enhancing stakeholder confidence, and positioning the company as a trusted aviation partner.

Ms Matsika is passionate about advancing the aviation industry through strategic collaboration, industry transformation, and meaningful partnerships that drive innovation, operational excellence, and sustainable growth. She has successfully led high-level aviation engagements, industry forums, corporate events, and stakeholder initiatives that bring together public and private sector leaders to address opportunities and challenges within the aviation ecosystem.

Her leadership is characterised by strategic thinking, effective communication, and a commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to the continued development and competitiveness of the aviation industry in South Africa and across the region.



Ms Cikizwa Matsika

RUNWAY TABLE TALK

Aviation Training, Recruitment & Education



Ms Nontuthuzelo Zulu-Siwela | Acting Director: University Academic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Department of Higher Education and Training

Ms Nontuthuzelo Glynda Zulu-Siwela is an experienced higher education professional with extensive expertise in academic planning, programme management, quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation within South Africa's university sector. Her current role includes academic planning, enrolment planning, university qualification development and engagement with higher education policy. Her career spans senior roles at DHET, the University of the Witwatersrand and Eastern Cape Technikon, with a strong record of supporting academic programme development, regulatory alignment, professional body liaison and institutional quality improvement.

She holds a Master of Education, a Bachelor of Education, a postgraduate diploma in Adult Education and additional training in Total Quality Management, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Higher Education Studies at Rhodes University.



Ms Nontuthuzelo Zulu-Siwela



RUNWAY TABLE TALK

Aviation Training, Recruitment & Education

Ms Jabu Kunene | Skills Development Facilitator **South African Civil Aviation Authority**

Jabu Lerato Kunene is a Human Resource Development professional with over 16 years' experience in skills development, talent management, organisational development and change management.

She currently serves as a Skills Development Specialist at the South African Civil Aviation Authority, where she leads strategic learning and development initiatives, skills development reporting, and organisational capability-building programmes. Jabu is passionate about empowering people, building future-ready skills and driving meaningful transformation in the workplace.



Ms Jabu Kunene

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN AVIATION

Exploring a Growth Mindset and Intrinsic Motivation in Aviation

Ms Mpumi Otieno-Oyola | Learning and Development Executive **Airports Company South Africa**

Mpumi is a Learning & Development executive with over 25 years of experience transforming training into a strategic driver of business performance. Her journey spans aviation, consulting, telecoms, call centres, banking, retail, mining, and FMCG, with leadership roles at Accenture, Deloitte, MTN, and Airports Company South Africa (ACSA). At ACSA, she has spent the past 12 years driving both internal L&D transformation and the commercialisation of the Training Academy. In her first three years as Head of Academy, she led her team to achieve 500% of targeted revenue year-on-year, growing the Academy from R1 million to R7 million annually. She also improved BBBEE Skills Development points from 7/25 to 19/25, rolled out a Virtual Academy, and launched new qualifications in partnership with universities and regulators.

Her earlier career included serving as Regional Head of Training for MTN in East & Southern Africa, where she designed and rolled out leadership, technical, and customer service training across multiple countries. She also led Training & Recruitment in large call centre environments, building scalable learning and talent pipelines. Consulting with Accenture and Deloitte gave her exposure to diverse sectors, delivering learning solutions for SAB, RMB, Murray & Roberts, and others. What defines her is the ability to blend strategy with measurable outcomes: she designs learning solutions that deliver ROI, build future-ready talent, and align directly with business goals. She is passionate about developing people, shaping organisational culture, and turning training functions into engines of growth.



Ms Mpumi Otieno-Oyola

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN AVIATION

Exploring a Growth Mindset and Intrinsic Motivation in Aviation

Ms Nthabiseng Malumedza | Accident & Serious Incident Investigator **South African Civil Aviation Authority**

Ms Nthabiseng Malumedzha has more than 20 years of experience in the aviation industry. Her expertise includes air traffic services, civil aviation management, and aircraft accident and incident investigation, and she is dedicated to advancing aviation safety and operational excellence and committed to continuous professional development. She is currently studying Mechanical Engineering, further strengthening her technical expertise and expanding her contribution to the aviation industry.

Beyond her aviation career, Nthabiseng is also a recipient of South African National Colours in hip-hop, and proudly represented South Africa in North Macedonia at the International Dance Organization (IDO) World Championships in 2024 as part of a production team. The team achieved first place, demonstrating excellence, teamwork, and dedication on the international stage. Reflecting her passion for the performing arts and her commitment to excellence both professionally and personally. She also enjoys cooking and baking, finding fulfilment in expressing her creativity and bringing people together through food.

Driven by integrity, excellence, and a commitment to lifelong learning, Nthabiseng remains dedicated to promoting the highest standards of aviation safety while making a meaningful impact in every role she undertakes.



Ms Nthabiseng Malumedza

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN AVIATION

EXPLORING A GROWTH MINDSET AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION IN AVIATION

Ms Emma Da Silva | Ground Operations Manager

Airlink

Ms Emma Da Silva is a confident Operations Manager with a proven track record of developing strategy, leading teams, and growing organisations through periods of change. Within the airline industry, she has directed organisational assessments and capacity-building plans to improve performance benchmarks while working collaboratively with cross-functional staffing teams, senior airline managers, airport directors, suppliers, and other key stakeholders. She brings a strong ability to reduce costs and implement operational efficiencies while ensuring that customer service and product delivery remain consistently high.

She is skilled at managing, mentoring, and motivating teams, and excels at building robust working units that are collaborative, productive, and high functioning. She brings additional strengths in cross-cultural negotiation and in building strong relationships with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. As a natural problem solver, She takes an initiative-led approach, adapt quickly when circumstances change, and bring constructive ideas and positive energy to the workplace. With more than 25 years of experience across the airline industry, She serves on the Board of BARSA (Board of Airline Representatives South Africa) as well as ACS (Aviation Co-ordination Services), providing critical operational insight for both organisations.



Ms Emma Da Silva

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN AVIATION

EXPLORING A GROWTH MINDSET AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION IN AVIATION

Ms Sindiswa Mntambo | Paint Technician

South African Airways

Ms Sindiswa Mntambo is a dedicated Paint Technician at South African Airways Technical, where she contributes to maintain the quality, protection and appearance of aircraft, while supporting the highest standards of aviation safety and technical excellence. Sindiswa has built her career through resilience, determination and commitment to continuous personal growth to a male dominated technical environment. She gives life to aircraft lifespan and decorative end product. She prolong the identification of airline and ensuring that aircrafts can withstand all different types of weather conditions.



Ms Sindiswa Mntambo

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN AVIATION

EXPLORING A GROWTH MINDSET AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION IN AVIATION

Ms Michelle Green-Thompson | Airport Manager

Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Airport

Michelle Green- Thompson is the Airport Manager of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Airport in KwaZulu-Natal, where she was headhunted to lead the airport's turnaround and drive its strategic growth. Under her leadership, the airport has secured infrastructure upgrades, expanded stakeholder partnerships, introduced new revenue streams, and positioned itself as a catalyst for tourism and economic development in the Zululand region.



Ms Michelle Green-Thompson