



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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**Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters
For Immediate Use**

TRANSPORT DEPUTY MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO WORLD AVIATION FORUM

The Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga (MP) is leading a high-powered South African delegation at the World Aviation Forum taking place in **Fortaleza in Brazil** from 17-19 September 2018.

The forum, being hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), brings under one roof high-level government officials responsible for aviation, transport and infrastructure, finance, the economy and tourism together from various countries and member states.

With the theme, ***“Promoting Investment for Aviation Development”***, the Forum is intended to create an enabling environment to discuss approaches to maximize aviation benefits and explore ways of mobilizing long-term financial resources for aviation development, especially for the development and modernization of quality aviation infrastructure.

The Forum is also aimed at mainstreaming priorities of the aviation sector in the global, regional and national agenda in support of ICAO's No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative and ultimately to contribute to the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

The Deputy Minister will form part of a panel that will address the Forum on Tuesday, 18 September 2018 on matters of governmental action regarding the development of the civil aviation sector in South Africa.

Airport Infrastructure Development

Deputy Minister Chikunga will highlight South Africa's role in responding effectively to the increased demand for airport infrastructure development, and will equally point out that airport modernisation will not only be driven by such demand but equally also by the needs and imperatives for environmental sustainability.

Current predictions in the civil aviation market are for an increase of around 6% for global passenger growth whereas an increase of between 4.5% and 8% per annum is predicted for Africa according to the CEO of Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA), Chris Zweigenthal.

Markets also anticipate that in the long term, air traffic will grow by twice as much with an estimated 5% growth per annum over the next 15 years whilst African traffic is expected to grow at 6% per annum over the next 12 years.

South Africa will argue that with predicted growth being ascertained by the notion of "No Country left Behind", the aviation sector must ensure that there is even development across the continent or that development is accelerated for countries that are less resourced.

The Deputy Minister will also point to the growth in the number of signatory member states to the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) which was launched in January 2018, now made up of 38 signatory countries with the number still growing.

SAATM advances the notion of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena and is meant to put the Yamassoukro Declaration into effect.

This Declaration serves to allow for the liberalisation of African Skies for AU member states. It was produced according to IATA by a realisation that the restrictive and protectionist intra-African regulatory regime based primarily on Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASAs) hampered the expansion and improvement of air transport on the continent, and that a need thus existed for the liberalisation of African Skies.

Both the liberalisation of African Skies and the concept of leaving no country behind will serve to produce an integrated approach among Africans with a unity of purpose among countries to produce better airport infrastructure initiatives based on increased demand for airport and modern infrastructure.

Part of the investments in civil aviation will have to emphasize the development of skills and research and innovation to keep abreast with modern civil aviation demands, including technological changes brought by the fourth industrial revolution.

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