



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY TRANSPORT MINISTER DR BE
NZIMANDE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY
2018, AT THE NELSPRUIT AIRPORT, MBOMBELA,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

08 DECEMBER 2018

Programme Director;

Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga;

*Mpumalanga Province MEC for Public Works, Roads and
Transport, Mr Gillion Mashego;*

*Mpumalanga Province MEC for Education, Mr Sibusiso Malaza;
MECs of Provincial Departments of Transport;*

*Executive Mayor of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Cllr Jesta
Sidell;*

*Executive Mayor of the Mbombela Local Municipality, Cllr
Sibusiso Mathonsi;*

*MMC for Public Safety, Transport, Health & Emergency
Services, Cllr Patrick Nkala;*

Members of the Portfolio Committee of Transport;

*Chairpersons of Boards, Board Members and CEOs of Transport
Sector Entities;*

Acting Director-General of the Department, Mr Chris Hlabisa;

HODs of Provincial Departments of Transport;
Deputy Director-Generals of the Department;
Members of the South African Air Force;
The South African Police Services (SAPS);
The Transport Education Training Authority (TETA);
International guests in Civil Aviation;
Representatives of Airlines;
Aviation Schools and Associations;
Officials of Government and Public Entities;
Political Formations, Trade Unions, Civil Society Organizations;
The Private Sector;
Special guests including Educators and Learners Present;
Members of the media;
Comrades;

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege to join you and participate in this the 2018 International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD). As the year draws to a close, let us be mindful that, 2018 has been a special year as it marked 100 years since the birth of the father of the nation, the late president of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, as well as Mama Albertina Sisulu.

In 2018 we also celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of that great intellectual and revolutionary, Karl Marx. This year we also commemorated 25 years since the tragic passing of Comrade Chris Hani.

Honourable Premier

I would be failing in my duties if I did not mention that not far from here, in the little known village of

Mbuzini, 150 odd kilometres away, the former president of Mozambique and leader of liberation movement FRELIMO, Comrade Samora Machel also met his untimely passing in a fatal air crash, together with 33 others, 33 years ago. Whilst questions still remain about the actual cause of the crash, let us honour his memory both in this province, Mpumalanga, where he lost his life, and indeed in our country as a whole.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This is the 15th year that ICAD is celebrated in South Africa and it is listed as a fully-fledged United Nations Day. We are here today to reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development of nations, and to highlight the importance of promoting safety, efficiency and skills development for international air transport as

espoused by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Our quest is to take aviation to the youth, in particular black youth and women.

It is for this reason that our department supported the convening of the Global Aviation Gender Summit that took place in Cape Town from 08 – 10 August 2018, with participants and representatives from government, aviation industry experts, international airports, airlines, and aircraft manufacturers from across the globe. We cannot merely just pay lip service to the transformation of the aviation sector, particularly women empowerment. We are fully behind ICAO's Gender Equality Programme. In the new year I intend leading a comprehensive effort to transform the aviation sector in our country. I will also be officially asking our three aviation entities to work towards the establishment of a state academy on aviation in order to ensure that the aviation sector is accessed

by all South African, especially those for workers and the poor.

All the Transport entities must play a proactive role in the area of job creation and skills development. It is critical that we provide platforms for disadvantaged communities to be afforded opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The key stakeholders of this ICAD are the learners, who are in attendance today. I must also thank the Department of Education in the province and district as well as the educators for supporting these learners. We must continuously implore and encourage our educators to create an enabling environment for learners to be exposed to various career opportunities.

Young learners must be exposed to the aviation sector and other career interests at a primary school level, so that they can develop their interests early and nurture their passion towards their chosen field. In so doing we will be developing future leaders and equipping them to become leaders in their chosen fields, including in aviation.

Programme Director

The Career Expo also provides these learners with an opportunity to interact with exhibitors and experts within the aviation sector, and across the broader transport spectrum. It is important that we don't sell these learners a pipe dream. They need to see what is possible within the transport sector. I am reliably informed that their day ended with an air show that was thoroughly enjoyed by the learners.

We must really applaud the work of the ***Joint Aviation Awareness Programme (JAAP)***, working closely with all the key stakeholders in the aviation industry.

The Joint Aviation Awareness Programme (JAAP) plays a key and significant role in the industry as it undertakes the identification, investing, and nurturing talent and skills, in order to enhance the recruitment pipeline for the industry. JAAP drives outreach programmes to schools, which are geared to promote aviation as a career of choice amongst learners. The essence of JAAP is to expose learners from historically disadvantaged communities to career pathways in the critical and scarce skills categories, which are currently in short supply in the sector. The target is Grade 10 to 12 Learners doing Mathematics and Physical Science.

I would like to implore JAAP to increase their footprint in rural areas, where there is little access to programmes of this nature.

Furthermore, I would also like to see JAAP solidifying strategic partnerships with the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Department of Science and Technology, institutions of higher learning and research institutions.

The work, effort, support and resources provided by JAAP has been duly noticed as a key stakeholder of ensuring that ICAD is a success.

Programme Director

It remains our collective responsibility as leaders within the transport sector to confront and find solutions to address the triple challenges of poverty,

social inequality and high levels of unemployment, the majority of our people are faced with daily.

When the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa appointed me as Minister of Transport, he communicated something very profound to me. He said that to improve regional and continental integration and relations, transport must take centre stage. It has the capacity to connect people in a way no other industry can.

Air travel connects people, nations and markets, locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. It is quick, safe and provides opportunities for cultural and social exchanges amongst people. It responds to emergency humanitarian interventions and public health emergencies. The aviation industry continues to grow at a phenomenal rate and forecasts indicate that air traffic volumes will double in the next 15 years.

Ladies and gentlemen

We have made no secret of our desire to position rail as the backbone of our transport system, which will necessitate a gradual shift from road to rail for both freight and passenger transport. This will ensure that we deal with the high volumes of traffic on our roads, the road carnage, as well as the maintenance of our roads. We must work together with the Provinces and Municipalities to improve the state of our roads.

National government funds a number of services in the provinces and municipalities. We shall be intensifying the monitoring of how funds provided by the Department are being used to address the challenges of transport in various areas.

We must also ensure that air travel becomes an alternative form of passenger transport, that is

accessible and affordable to the majority of South Africans.

Air travel therefore needs to function within the broader spectrum of a holistic transport plan. Therefore, the department and our aviation entities need to ensure that they align all their plans to the National Transport Master Plan (NATMAP 2050) which advocates for a comprehensive, multi-modal, integrated, dynamic and sustainable transport framework, that is safe for commuters and the environment.

A key component of NATMAP 2050 is a well-managed and regulated transport sector, within a multi-sectoral sphere of effective coordination and cooperation between government at all levels, the private sector, civil society, and other key stakeholders.

Through the implementation of NATMAP we plan to correct historical imbalances and unlock economic opportunities underpinned by the creation of jobs and the provision of skills training.

To demonstrate our commitment to innovation and research, the appointment by myself of a team of prominent professionals across different spheres, is imminent. They will form part of the Panel of Transport Experts, to advise me on strengthening the role of all the modes of transport in the social and economic development of our country.

They will also look into the lack of provision of adequate services for people with disabilities, as well the gender and racial parities that continue to exist, particularly in aviation and maritime. They will also work very closely with Transport Innovation Hubs throughout the country to ensure that

transport matters are prioritized and that innovative solutions are considered and found.

They will also assist us in acquiring bodies of knowledge from research institutions, tertiary institutions, transport experts and key players within the transport sector. We must modernize our transport sector in order to prepare ourselves for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Programme Director

In July during the 10th BRICS Summit 2018, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on aviation with the other member countries. The MOU is on a Regional Aviation Partnership to expand and deepen the cooperation among competent authorities in the field of regional aviation.

The agreement was signed between the Department of Transport, the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the Republic of India, and the Civil Aviation Administration of the People's Republic of China.

The agreement was signed on the basis of understanding and laying a basis to derive mutual benefits in order to bolster our regional aviation transport sector, to share good practice and open socio-economic and development opportunities amongst the member states.

We must use these relationships to learn best practice, stimulate the economy, create strategic partnerships to ensure skills are acquired, and ultimately creating new jobs.

Today all the key stakeholders within the Civil Aviation sector are here, and it is imperative that they all play a key role in this important partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen

According to a study conducted by Oxford Economics in 2014, airlines, airport operators, non-aeronautical airport on-site enterprises (restaurants and retail), aircraft manufacturers, and air navigation service providers, provided jobs to approximately 70,000 people in this country.

The air transport industry is also estimated to have supported a \$7.4 billion gross value added contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in South Africa in 2014. Spending by foreign tourists, supported a further \$5.1 billion gross value added contribution to the country's GDP.

This means that 3.5% of our GDP is supported by the air transport sector, and foreign tourists arriving by air. Economically, Africa is currently the fastest growing continent and the importance of aviation to the economy of the country should not be underestimated.

When these young learners consider career choices, they must know whether there is a future in that chosen industry or not, and make informed decisions.

Programme Director

According to a report issued by the International Air Transport Association, (IATA), in August this year, African airlines posted the second-fastest growth rate in the world in August 2018 (6.8%). Africa's has a 2.2% share of the world market for passenger air

transport and a 1.9% share of the global airfreight market, so there is much room for expansion.

A recent forecast also released by IATA announced that Africa's passenger growth is expected to grow by 5.9% over the next 20 years. It is estimated that in 2036 there will be an extra 274 million passengers a year, which will increase the total global market to 400 million of air travel passengers.

Programme Director

A collaborative agreement between African States for air travel connections between our countries, was signed on 28 January 2018. This agreement, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) was established and launched at the African Union Summit in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. This agreement marks a continuation of our plan to open

opportunities for travel and trade across African skies, following the Yamoussoukro Decision of 1999.

The advantages of the implementation of the agreement will be greater inter-connection, which will stimulate demand, increase competition in the African airline industry and improve the accessibility of air travel. This could be an enabler of increased trade, growing trade and commercial activities, and an expanded tourism market between African States and the rest of the world.

In meeting the growth demands of the aviation sector there will be an increased demand for aviation experts globally. Learners as possible future employees will have opportunities to participate in this growth, and this is where come in. To our learners we say, prepare yourselves to grab

these opportunities in the aviation sector and industry.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation, (ICAO) has indicated that by 2036, approximately 620,000 pilots will be needed across the globe, which presents opportunities for learners.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This ongoing issue of the lack of transformation in the aviation sector is one that is very close to my heart. The statistics of civil aviation personnel licences over the last financial year indicate that, with the exception of cabin crew, white males still dominate every category, including that of student pilots. It is evident that the aviation industry is not willing to transform at the desired rate.

This also indicates the need for urgent interventions. The Department of Transport is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive National Civil Aviation Transformation Strategy (NCATS), which will become the much needed solution for the current desperate need for transformation in the sector.

Ladies and gentlemen

I have indicated to the Acting Director-General of the Department of Transport, that I would like us to host a Transport Innovation Conference during the first quarter of next year to mobilise government, key stakeholders in the sector, and business towards investing in innovation and technological solutions in the transport sector. This conference should also look at business investing into providing training and skills opportunities for young men and women to pursue careers in the various sectors of

transport, particularly in aviation and maritime, where there are notable historical imbalances, red tape and selective exclusions. As a country we have to pull together our resources to support science, technology, innovation and skills development for the transport sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

A shocking statistic that was revealed to me recently is that only 5% of pilots globally are women. It is high time that ICAO, our entities, airlines, the Air Force, educational institutions and other key stakeholders within the aviation sector start visiting primary schools to educate learners around possible careers in aviation.

It is important that girls are exposed to careers in aviation so that they too develop an interest and appetite for working in the sector, and to change

these skewed perceptions, by ensuring that there is gender equity in the sector. JAAP has a key role to play in this regard, by ensuring that its programme is biased in favour of women.

We would also urge SAA and SAA Express in particular to join efforts with government to significantly increase the training of especially black and women pilots. I would like to see these airlines introducing relevant training programmes (eg the cadet scheme SAA used to have). I also want our Acting DDG to explore the possibility of requiring of all airlines with a domestic flying license to contribute towards. Training of pilots and other aviation skills as a condition for the award and renewal of such licenses.

Learners and Educators

Today we have in our midst Mduduzi Makamu who hails from Nkomazi, which is just a short drive away from here. He is a pilot, working as a flight operations inspector for the South African Civil Aviation Authority. He never gave up on his dream of becoming a pilot even though he didn't have the requisite funding. It was not easy and he even had to work part-time to supplement his funding.

We are also joined Dr Musa Ndukuya, a qualified medical doctor, who hails from White River. He pursued his passion for flying, a field that was unknown to his family and community.

He works in aerial fire-fighting, instruction, charter and airline flying, and is currently employed by one of the three largest aircraft manufacturers in the world.

The flight academy allowed him to pay off his fees in small instalments, and with the encouragement of family, friends and fellow aviators, he managed to eventually qualify as an airline pilot.

Learners, these aviators overcame obstacles to achieve their dreams, and so can you. The key is to know what inspires you.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion I wish to thank the Steering Committee, representative of all the stakeholders for arranging ICAD 2018. I can see that a lot of work went into ensuring that it is the success that it has turned out to be.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy International Civil Aviation Day and a happy and safe festive season!

Thank you.

Word Count: 3016