



WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, SOUTH AFRICA, MR MATHABATHA MOKONYAMA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 7th IFATSEA AFRICA REGION MEETING & AIR TRAFFIC SAFETY ELECTRONICS PERSONNEL WORKSHOP 2017, AT THE MONTECASINO – JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 22nd – 25th AGUST 2017

Programme Director

IFATSEA Africa Regional Director: Ing. Frank Kofi Apeageyi

Representatives of IFATSEA

The Board, CEO and Senior Leadership of ATNS

Representatives from International Organizations

Regional and National Air Traffic Controllers

Representatives from all institutions (Government and Public Entities)

Stakeholders / Service Providers from Private Sector Partners

Ladies and Gentleman

It is a great honour for South Africa to host the 7th IFATSEA Africa Region meeting & Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEP) workshop during this month of August, which is dedicated to celebrate the achievements of women of this country. To this date, we still bow our

heads in honour of women who marched to the Union Buildings in in protest against pass laws on the 9th of August 1956.

It is on that basis that this month is dedicated to brave women who made history and those that are making history, especially in the aviation industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

South Africa recognises the importance of IFATSEA as the authoritative voice on the competence of air traffic safety electronics personnel. South Africa will always support and actively contribute to the improvement of air traffic safety performance around the world.

It was not through coincidence that IFATSEA has been granted an Observer status by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This is the highest recognition that can be afforded to an organization.

For the next three days or so, these esteemed delegates will be focusing on key areas of development for the African Aviation Industry. This event is significant, particularly for ATNS, as it will also include the launch of SAATSEPA – South African Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel Association – a voluntary, independent, non-profit association of individuals exchanging experience and technical knowledge in the provision of engineering support for the Air Traffic Management community.

I am convinced that you will include, in your discussion, Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel Licensing as well as best practices and learning around ATSEP climate and culture.

As I have mentioned, IFATSEA is recognized as an observer by ICAO and has developed the ATSEP Training Manual Doc 7192, which is used globally to provide guidelines to air traffic safety electronics personnel. As Africa Region let us work with it towards standardising our ATSEP training. Let me take this opportunity to further encourage IFATSEA and all its affiliated members and associates to continuously work together in motivating the need to license the ATSEPs. Taking into consideration the fact that when you look at major professions involved with air safety, Pilots are licensed, Air Traffic Controllers are licensed, and Aircraft Maintenance Engineers are licensed. We need to continue the discussion relating to ATSEPs who are generally tasked amongst other things with installing, maintaining and monitoring of Communication, Navigation and Surveillance equipment. Let us remember that upholding a professional environment for our ATSEPs (and ATC) plays a critical role in ensuring safe skies within our region which in turn gives a huge boost to **tourism and economic growth**.

IFATSEA, whose objectives are, amongst others, to promote safety, efficiency and regularity in International Air Navigation; to assist and advise in the development of electronics systems in order to maintain the safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic; and to protect and safeguard the collective professional interests of Air Traffic Safety

Electronics personnel, is making a huge contribution in the development of international civil aviation.

Let me assure you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the South African government, here represented by Department of Transport (DoT), subscribes to these very same objectives of IFATSEAT and through our regulatory agency and role-payers instil these very core values to ensure that our skies are safer.

Let me take this opportunity to share with you the status of our aviation in regard implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. South Africa underwent a comprehensive audit under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), which, as you might be aware, is now based on the Continuous Monitoring Approach.

The audit was conducted from the 8th to 18th of May 2017. Before the audit, South Africa was at position **41 globally** in relation to ICAO's Effective Implementation and at position **two (2) in Africa**. I am proud to announce that in terms of the preliminary report, South Africa now enjoys the Number **one** position in Africa and Number **33** globally. This is one of the rare cases where the audits have elevated a Member State's standing on effective implementation of SARPs. Most of the recently audited states have dropped, some drastically.

We are doing our best to address the observations made. By the time a final report is made, we are anticipating our level of effective implementation to be at least 90%.

And in acknowledgement of this momentous feat, Ladies and Gentleman, let me take this opportunity to commend our highly trained personnel in the aviation industry, in particular, personnel in Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS).

We acknowledge ATSEP and our esteemed host, Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS), who pursue global Air Traffic Management (ATM) standards; a culture of safety and embraces efforts that contribute to climate change. The government of South Africa thanks you for your sterling contribution in ensuring South Africa operates in safe skies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today as I welcome you to the THE 7th IFATSEA Africa region meeting & ATSEP; the workshop acknowledges and congratulates the technical staff, systems engineers and software specialists, comprising ATSEP who are involved in the creation and support of ground-based electronic hardware and software systems used to support air navigation and air traffic management, without whom, there would be chaotic and unsafe global airspace.

Let me congratulate ATNS for organizing and hosting this 7th IFATSEA Africa Region Meeting. Not forgetting all of you gathered here today who

responded to the calling notice of this event. I wish you well in all the deliberations and presentations you will be having under the theme ATSEP, licensing Africa's aviation professional and its relevance to safety. May all your discussions yield fruitful resolutions that will take the future of our ATSEP in Africa forward. Remember, resolutions not implemented remain useless as not existing, so please, ladies and gentlemen, let us commit to implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I also take advantage of this platform in wishing all ATSEP, nationally, regionally and globally, my best wishes on International ATSEP Day that is scheduled annually on the 12th November as declared by the International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA).

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me invite you to enjoy the hospitality of South Africa and explore the great escapades on offer both here in Gauteng and other provinces. I believe all of you will take advantage of the different excursions arranged for your convenience. I will expect you to come back with your families and friends to fully explore the wonders of South Africa in a more relaxed mood.

With these few words, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now declare the 7th IFATSEA Africa Region meeting & Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel workshop officially open.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.