

**07TH IFATSEA AFRICA REGION MEETING AND AIR TRAFFIC SAFETY ELECTRONICS PERSONNEL
(ATSEP) WORKSHOP 2017, 22ND TO 25TH AUGUST 2017, MONTECASINO – JOHANNESBURG**

SPEECH DELIVERED BY: MS NWABISA MTSHALI

International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA) Executive Committee, Presidents of the Air Traffic Safety and Electronics Personnel Associations, Leadership from the Department of Transport South Africa, Leadership from the South African Civil Aviation Authority, ATNS CEO, President of the Engineering Council of South Africa, CEO of the Engineering Council of South Africa, CEO's of other entities present here, ATNS Executive Committee, distinguished guests from our beautiful continent Africa, Ladies and gentlemen, I bid you a warm welcome to this significant conference hosted at the southern tip of the continent.

I would also like to convey sincere gratitude to the ATNS Board and Chairperson for bestowing me an opportunity to deliver an address on their behalf. I would also be doing an injustice if I do not deliver their well wishes for the successful conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, we all know that aviation is a safety critical sector within the transport value chain. I am tuned to belief that the African continent does not hold a different view in this regard. Safety should occupy centre stage all the time. We can even go further and say safety is non-negotiable and everybody's responsibility. I am ready to submit to us that I am intrigued by the theme chosen for this conference – *“ATSEP: Licensing Africa's Aviation Professionals and its relevance to safety”*. You can immediately deduce from the theme that safety is the heartbeat of this industry. As the ATNS Board, we consider safety as paramount, hence it is embedded as one of our value as an organisation.

Ladies and gentlemen, ATNS subscribes to a notion of deploying aviation professionals with the correct knowledge, skills and attitude, to safe guard our skies. Therefore, we recognize the significance of affiliating to international bodies that are aligned to the cause of keeping safer skies. We further acknowledge the impact and contribution of our Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel towards safety.

It is for the same reason that we encourage active participation of our workforce on platforms of this magnitude. So, we are thrilled to realise that ATNS resolved to affiliate to IFATSEA as a Corporate Member. Our affiliation will strengthen relationships with other industry stakeholders in an endeavour to pave collaborative efforts of equipping the industry with the next generation of aviation professionals.

Our world class institution, the ATNS Aviation Training Academy, is instrumental in developing product offerings that are aligned to ICAO Document 10057, ATSEP Training Manual on Competency Training and Assessment.

Ladies and gentlemen, I firmly believe that our aviation professionals will derive a benefit by partaking and being actively involved in all the engagements that are about to unfold at this conference. On behalf of ATNS Board, I would like to assure you of our continued support to building capacity to make you efficient and effective aviation professionals. I urge you to utilise this conference to devise strategies that will shape the future of the aviation industry and become the beacon of hope for the future ATSEP.

We operate in an industry that is evolving all the time and cannot afford to rest on our laurels whilst the world is moving forward. We will continue to rely on your expertise and advice to provide the state of the art CNS technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are once again indebted to you for looking after our skies and I wish you fruitful and robust engagements as you unpack some of the topics that are outlined in the programme.

I thank you.