



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**AEROSPACE CHAMBER: THE DOT'S REPORT
FOR THE CHAMBER COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, 04 JULY 2017
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 07 MARCH 2017**

PURPOSE

DOT Report

At per previous meeting held, the DOT reported on the sectoral frameworks under developments and initiatives underway. Therefore, the purpose of this succinct report submitted herein is to provide progress update:

- (a) Alignment of Aviation Industry Sub-sector Codes with the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) revised codes of the Department of Trade and Industry (the DTI);
- (b) National Civil Aviation Policy and the National Airports Development Plan;
- (c) National Civil Aviation Transformation Strategy; and
- (d) Commemoration of International Civil Aviation Day 2017

DISCUSSION

(a) Aviation Sub-Sector Alignment Process

Towards the end of last year, the Department processed bulk of the inputs received during the sixty (60) days wherein the public made comments. Subsequently, the Technical Team presented the submission to the Minister. The Ministerial directive was that consultations with the public be re-opened. This was due to that the processed inputs changed drastically the initial submission of the public. It is hoped that the current process will be finalised in August 2017 and the Minister will then consider the final submission for escalation to the DTI to gazette it under section 09 to become legally binding.

(b) National Civil Aviation Policy and the National Airports Development Plan

Following the tabling of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) at the Cabinet Committee, it was approved by Cabinet in February 2017. The Minister recently sanctioned that it is published and has been gazetted in the Government Gazette No: 40487 of 2017. As previously reported, the NADP was referred back to the Department to rework on specific areas that were identified. This exercise has been completed and the NADP is being consulted with the relevant Cabinet Clusters.

(c) National Civil Aviation Transformation Strategy

A revised NCATS was submitted to the Department at the end of June 2017 for comments. This will pave way for public consultation. Since March 2017 the Working Groups of the Letsema Steering Committee were identified in carrying out the spade work as the Amongst others, this would entail conducting rapid researches and benchmarking study tours, advancing and aligning the NATS new positions with other existing frameworks. For the purpose of enhancing the document, three areas earmarked as the pillars of the NATS were identified namely: **enterprise development; policy and research and skills development**. The motive for opting for these pillars is that they are key drivers for harnessing transformation within the aviation space not only in South Africa but Africa as a whole in line with the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP). In addition, the three pillars have been adopted as the areas around which the Working Groups are anchored.

Enterprise Development

In the context of NATS, enterprise development is to focus on the entire value chain of aviation. The rationale is to move beyond being compliant to BEE Act. This paves way for beginning to tackle those aspects that cannot be addressed through conventional frameworks including the organisational BEE strategies. In this regard, the situational analysis exercise has revealed that the aviation environment landscape is plagued by the following:

- (a) Barriers to entry with high capital costs;
- (b) Limited participation of Black businesses;
- (c) Absence of an institution directly responsible for coordination of aviation transformation initiatives and provision of support thereof; and
- (d) No integrated planning amongst Government departments.

Policy and Research

In the context of NATS, policy and research is to focus on the review of the enabling context which is predominately the domain of Government departments. The ultimate goal is to foster alignment of existing policies and identified gaps, if any, where possible provide recommendations for amendment. This is necessitated by a realisation that there is limited coordination amongst the various Government departments within the South African aviation landscape. The approach that has been employed to this exercise in in two parts:

Skills Development

The rational is to respond to EXCO's review that the draft NATS focused exclusively to one profession namely pilots. Efforts have been made to look broadly at a range of skills required in aviation sector. The approach employed has entailed disaggregating the aviation industry into seven (07) sub-sectors. The exercise has moved on to identify priority positions within each sub-sector. The next step was to determine: the distribution in terms of race by profession; age (how many are close to reaching retirement); gender, etc. Once this analysis is finalised, the decision-makers can be presented with scenarios that begin to advise:

- What is the current demand and supply with respect to human resources in aviation;
- Make projections about future investments into human capital development; and
- Quantify the cost of investment to be made.

The seven sub-sectors include:

- 1.) Airports
- 2.) Technical
- 3.) Weather Services
- 4.) Remote Pilots Aircraft Systems
- 5.) Airlines
- 6.) Air Traffic Control and Navigation Services
- 7.) Regulatory

(d) Commemoration of International Civil Aviation Day 2017

The process of soliciting the host province for hosing International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD) began in March 2017. It culminated with a bilateral meeting held on Thursday, 01 June 2017 in Cape Town. Whilst the Acting Deputy Director General: Civil Aviation represented the Department, the Head of Department (HOD) for the Department of Transport and Public Works represented the host province. Its outcome was acceptance of Western Cape Province to host ICAD. Thus, this year this event will be hosted on Friday, 8 Friday December 2017 at Langebaanweg Air Force Base (AFB).

The reason for having opted for the said day and venue was influenced by the realisation that South African Air Force (SAAF) will be hosting the West Coast Wings and Wheels on Saturday, 9 December 2017. To ensure cost effective utilisation of resources intended to showcasing the best of our country's aerial display, a request was submitted to the political principals to give authorisation to merge the two events. Approval was granted. Late in June 2017, a site visit was conducted at the Langebaanweg AFB. Over the next five months planning meetings will take place to ensure that the event is a success.