

Aviation giants map future at Mosi-oa-Tunya, Zambia

— Lesiba Seshoka

The Airline Association of Southern Africa (AASA) recently held its 48th General Assembly at Mosi-oa-Tunya, Livingstone, Zambia under the theme “Enabling African airline service excellence”. The conference was hosted by South African Airways (SAA) whilst the South African Weather Service (SAWS) was amongst the many sponsors of the event. Aviation is one of the Weather Service’s leading commercial stakeholders as all aircrafts need weather forecasts before they could take off. The high powered delegation to the event was led by the Acting CEO Mnikeli Ndabambi.

The conference took place against the backdrop of global, regional and local political uncertainty, market turbulence and rising costs and sought to seek lasting solutions for the aviation sector.

... continued on page 3



Delegates at the AASA General Assembly: In the grey suit Mr Vuyani Jarana (SAA CEO) and SAWS CFO Ms Busi Shongwe (diagonal blouse) flanked by fellow SAA executives.

SAWS hosts Sudanese technical delegation

— Zoleka Manona

In September 2018, the South African Water Research Commission (WRC) hosted a Sudanese Technical delegation from the Sudanese Water Research Centre (SWRC) and the University of Khartoum. The primary purpose of the visit was to establish a cooperation agreement (MoU) between the WRC and SWRC and also to engage with the WRC’s key stakeholders. SAWS’ expertise in the research field made it a logical point of visit. A visit to SAWS took place on 12 September 2018 and was graced with the presence of the Sudanese Deputy Ambassador to South Africa, Honourable Abuzied Mohamed. The deliberations of this visit included, amongst others, research priorities, key cutting-edge projects, university research priorities and identification of possible areas of collaboration. This technical visit bears potential to enhance SAWS’ endeavours to forge international strategic collaborations for organisational development. ✦



South African Weather Service staff with the Sudanese delegation

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|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 2 Foreword by the acting CEO | 4 Nigeria, Burundi MET Services Visit SAWS | 5 Total Quality Month campaign | 6 Ten countries sign the MASA Constitution | 7 WMO conducts official reviews of the Regional Training Centre (RTC) RSMC | 8 WMO EC seat for South Africa | 8 Signing of the AMCOMET Constitution |
| 2 Think global, act local | 5 SAWS hosts the delegation of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) | 5 SAWS experts guide the Seychelles Meteorological Authority | 6 SAWS participates in the MASA and SCOM sessions | 7 South Africa to sign MASA Host Agreement | 8 Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury | |

Foreword

by the acting CEO

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is pleased to introduce the first edition of the International Relations publication "The Internationale". The engagement of SAWS' international stakeholders remains a key underpinning factor for the continued positioning and sustainability of the organisation at global level. SAWS seeks to use communication channels such as this, to engage and inform its stakeholders on international activities undertaken by the organisation.

There are numerous activities that SAWS engages in its quests to become a key role player in the meteorological development. These include, amongst others, the enhancement of observational networks, capacity and capability development, collaboration and strategic partnerships, and improved service delivery.

There are also significant global trends and developments that relate to meteorology and are envisaged to improve the service delivery of National Meteorological Services (NMSs). These are to mention a few, cloud computing; satellite

earth observation systems; Integrated observations between member states etc. On a different but related note, NMSs, primarily from the developing world, are faced with global challenges such as adaptation to climate change, the growing number of service providers (SPs) offering weather services globally, and WMO resolutions on free data exchange etc. It is therefore imperative for NMSs to keep abreast of these trends and challenges through regular engagements with stakeholders, for informed decision-making, thus ensuring their relevance.

With the above said, I trust that this publication will accomplish its intended objective of informing our stakeholders on SAWS international highlights and activities undertaken during this reporting period; and it is envisaged that this will dawn an engagement platform between the organisation and its stakeholders.

Mnikeli Ndabambi
acting Chief Executive Officer



Think global, act local



We live in a globalised world. The locals need to know what is happening around the globe in as far as their area of work is concerned. The global world on the other hand needs to know what is happening in a world around them, regions and continents away. It is for this very reason that the South African Weather Service's Communications decided to give birth to an International newsletter, The Internationale as a platform to share information and developments. The idea is in a nutshell to localise global issues and globalise local issues.

We strongly believe that the National Meteorological Services (NMSs) on our continent of Africa and across the globe would benefit from knowing what is happening around them. Our staff in various regions would also benefit in

knowing what their organisation is doing on the international front.

As we act locally, we must be cognisant of the global impact of our local action. We must also be cognisant of the local impact of the global inaction. We must know what is happening locally which has a negative impact globally and how to minimise. We must continue to connect to each other from country to region and region to continent, continent to the world. It is not globalisation but internationalisation. Write to us about how you feel about this newsletter as a platform and how we can make it better for you. Till next time!

Lesiba Seshoka
Editor in Chief

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Aviation giants map future at Mosi-oa-Tunya, Zambia

... continued from page 1

While the global air transport sector is on track to return a USD33.8 billion profit in 2018, AASA predicts airlines across SADC will report a collective USD300 million loss for the year, with individual carriers experiencing fluctuating fortunes.

“Tourism, along with trade, is a powerful lever of growth. But they are being stunted by uncertainties. As one of the most capital-intensive sectors and a vital enabler of economic activity, the airline industry needs Southern African governments to clarify their local economic reform policies so they do not spoil the appetite for much needed trade and investment in the region,” said AASA CEO, Chris Zweigenthal.

Some of the solutions the conference resolved on includes amongst others that airlines should be differentiated to be competitive and that such differentiation must be through customer service excellence, value-for-money travel, efficiencies as well as tourism.

AASA identified other handbrakes applied by governments which impede air travel, tourism and their ability to deliver growth. These included airlines’ inability to repatriate their revenues from a handful of African countries, including Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Laws on cyber security and personal data protection was another. Few African states have drafted or promulgated cyber and data protection legislation. Those that had been passed were inconsistent, while airlines in Southern Africa were now also required to comply with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulations if they sold or marketed services and products to EU citizens and residents. ✨

Nigeria, Burundi MET Services visit SAWS

— Lesiba Seshoka



SAWS management with guests.



MASA Executive Director Bruno Sekoli with Prof Sani Mashi.

The Permanent Representatives of Burundi and Nigeria with WMO recently visited the South African Weather Service on a familiarisation mission. Professor Abubakar Mashi, the Director General of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and Mr Augustin Ngezirabona, the Director of the Burundian Met Service are both heads of their national meteorological services. The purpose of the visit was for the new Permanent Representatives (PRs) to familiarise themselves with the workings of National Meteorological Services in two countries, one developed and one developing.

In welcoming the guests, Dr Deon Terblanche, speaking on behalf of the Acting South African Weather Service Chief Executive Officer, Mr Minikeli Ndabambi, said "South Africa appreciates the commitment of Nigeria and Burundi to the United Nations (UN), which is an inter-governmental organisation, tasked to promote international cooperation and to create and maintain international order".

He further stated that the South African Weather Service believed that the familiarisation tour marked the dawn of enhanced collaboration and cooperation on the African continent.

"We chose South Africa as one of the countries we would love to go to as we share the same geography" says Prof. Mashi speaking at the meeting.

The meeting served as a platform for SAWS to share information on its operations and culminated with a visit to the National Forecasting Centre (NFC), the High Performance Computer (HPC) and the Regional Training Centre (RTC). ✨

SAWS hosts the delegation of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)

— Zoleka Manona

The South African Weather Service hosted the delegation of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), in October 2018. ACMAD is a forum that assists with the provision of weather and climate information and the promotion of sustainable development of Africa. The ACMAD delegation consisted of modellers and systems engineers who wanted to acquaint themselves with the SAWS High Performance Computer (HPC) System, which is envisaged for their institutions. This is under the project framework of the African Development Bank-funded Satellite and Weather Information for Disaster Resilience in Africa (SAWIDRA).



Mr Cobus Olivier, Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi and an ACMAD delegate.

The project is implemented by ACMAD and will benefit all African regions, and efforts are being coordinated with AGRHYMET (West Africa), ICPAC (East Africa), ECPAC (Central Africa), and SADC-CSC (Southern Africa) regional centres. ACMAD as well as the regional centres are planning to run Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models with high resolution over their respective domains. Running such models requires the use of an HPC facility that allows for weather forecasts to be produced timeously with high resolution. SAWS and the South African National Space Agency (SANS) are partners in the project and are actively involved in the establishment of a direct broadcast meteorological satellite reception station. This technical visit was envisaged to enhance SAWS' endeavours to forge strategic collaborations for meteorological development, which are aimed at improving the service delivery of the NMSs in the region. ✨



ACMAD delegates with Dr Mary-Jane Bopape.

Acting CEO Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi, Ms Marie-Eve Denis, Ms Winnie Sabisa, Ms Meriam Chueu and Mr Lesiba Seshoka.



Seychelles graces the South African Total Quality Month campaign

The Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA) reciprocated the recent visit by the South African Weather Service when they attended the launch of SAWS' **Total Quality Month** campaign in November 2018. Ms Marie-Eve Denis of the Seychelles explained how the South African Weather Service assisted the SMD to bridge the identified gaps to implement Total Quality Management, thereby complying with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

SAWS experts guide the Seychelles Meteorological Authority

— Zoleka Manona

The South African Weather Service's Total Quality Management experts recently visited the Seychelles Meteorological Authority. The team consisted of Messrs Mandla Mavimbela and Dithuso Mohapi. The duo assisted the Seychelles Meteorological Authority with their Quality Management System readiness for ISO 9001: 2015 certification. This included assessing the Seychelles' readiness in preparation for the certification audit. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requires that all contracting states adopt a Quality Management Approach to provide aviation weather services. Quality management has increasingly become important in the field of the delivery of aeronautical meteorological services. ✨



Seychelles, the SAWS duo had their hands full.

Ten countries sign the **MASA** Constitution

— Zoleka Manona & Bafentse Sengane

Ten Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries has since signed the Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA) constitution, a pre-requisite for joining MASA. These countries are the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, eSwatini, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Article 12.6 of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology provides for SADC member states to develop a co-operation framework with the aim of strengthening weather and climate monitoring systems. The Protocol also caters for the improvement of public and specialised weather services and allows for the promotion of sustainable development with emphasis on climate change and the protection of the environment as well as strengthening meteorological research capacity in the region.

SADC National Meteorological Services (NMSs) commenced their engagements in 2006, to establish the Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA), in pursuance of the envisaged co-operation. This regional endeavour was endorsed by SADC Ministers during their Transport and Meteorology meeting in October 2007, in Gaborone, Botswana. The main objectives of establishing MASA were to strengthen the regional cooperation and coordinate the key regional programmes and meteorological operations of SADC NMSs to improve their service delivery through the enhancement of the regional observational networks, capacity development, strategic collaboration and resource mobilisation.

South Africa ratified the MASA Constitution in 2007 and has been a Member since the association came into force. ✨

SAWS participates in the **MASA** and **SCOM** sessions

— Zoleka Manona & Bafentse Sengane

As part of the regional meteorological development, the South African Weather Service was represented in the Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA) and SADC/Sub-sectoral Committee for Meteorology (SCOM) sessions held in August 2018, which served as preparatory and built-up forums for the SADC Ministerial Meeting. These sessions' aim was to promote collaboration and cooperation on regional projects in accordance with the resolution of the SADC Meeting of Ministers, in their seating in Malawi last year. A key output was the endorsement of the Southern African Regional Climate Information Service for Disaster Resilience Development (SARCIS-DR) project and establishment of an overseeing task team, aimed at increasing the capability of SADC countries to respond to climate-induced disasters and to reduce loss of lives, damage to resources and properties.

South Africa also participated in the meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers (SCOM) responsible for ICT, Information, Transport and Meteorology from 24 to 28 September 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia. The High-Level segment was preceded by technical sessions of the

Committees of Senior Officials (COSO) responsible for the concerned sectors. SAWS' participation included reporting on progress on technical meteorological issues. The overall aim of the SADC Committee of Ministers is to establish transport, communications and meteorological systems that can provide efficient, cost-effective and fully integrated infrastructure and operations.

These systems should meet customer needs and promote economic and social development, while being environmentally and economically sustainable. It is for this reason the Committee of Ministers meets annually to review and approve the implementation strategies coordinated and developed by the established Committees of Senior Officials (COSO) as well as the Sub-sectoral Committees (SCOMs), which are platforms for carrying out the Ministers' goals and objects. Key deliberations of the Ministerial segment on meteorological sector, which are of strategic importance and have a direct bearing to SAWS, include amongst others, the AMCOMET and MASA Constitutions, MASA Host Agreement, WMO EC seat for South Africa, Minamata Convention on Mercury and its implementation. ✨

SAWS continued to fulfil its international obligations and played its pivotal role in the region for the advancement of meteorology, through numerous WMO/ICAO designated regional institutions that the organisation is responsible for. In an effort to ensure efficiency of the designated regional institutions, WMO conducted official reviews for the RTC-Pretoria and RSMC-Pretoria in September 2018. During these reviews, challenges faced by the regional institutions were identified and recommendations were proposed to enhance their efficiency.

The aim of the RTC review process is to support the WMO RTCs, in providing high quality training programmes that will contribute to meeting regional training needs. The main focus of this external review was to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of RTC-Pretoria in meeting regional training needs. The review examined the quality of the education and training based on the established criteria for WMO RTCs, and also on the derived benefits and quantity of output.

With regards to the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC), WMO embarked on an exercise to confirm the mapping of RSMC-Pretoria, in line with the the functions described in the revised Manual on the WMO Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPPFS). The RSMCs with confirmed mapping are required to demonstrate their capabilities in the Eighteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18), in June 2019, in order to retain the new designation beyond Cg-18. Member States currently hosting RSMCs with geographical specialization were reminded during the review, to ensure mapping of their centres, to correspond with the new types of centres in the manual. ✨

WMO conducts official reviews of the Regional Training Centre (RTC) RSMC

— Zoleka Manona



RTC staff with WMO representatives.



Mr Ezekiel Sebege, Mr Richard Young (WMO Official) and Mr Tshepo Ngobeni.



South Africa to sign MASA Host Agreement

— Zoleka Manona & Bafentse Sengane

South Africa expressed its interest to host the MASA Secretariat, a position that was endorsed by the SADC Ministers. Subsequently, upon MASA attaining the required quorum of signatories, as stipulated in its Constitution, the Association became operational in May 2009, with the interim Secretariat institutionalised at the South African Weather Service (SAWS) in Pretoria. A permanent Secretariat was appointed to continue with the coordination of the key MASA programmes for the enhancement of meteorology in the region. However, the hosting of the MASA Secretariat by South Africa continued without being formalised, and engagements between SAWS, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) MASA and SADC commenced to formalise

this relationship. DIRCO developed a zero-draft agreement, which was successfully reviewed by both SADC and SAWS for their legal inputs. The Departments of Justice as well as that of International Relations and Cooperation vetted the document for legal opinions on compliance with domestic and international law provisions. The final draft agreement was shared with SAWS, SADC and MASA for the final review prior to its signing by the Minister on behalf of the Government of South Africa. The Executive Secretary for the SADC Secretary and all parties have agreed on the contents of the Host Agreement. The agreement is currently going through preparation for the signing process ✨

WMO EC seat for South Africa

— Zoleka Manona

The Executive Council of the WMO meets annually to ensure proper implementation of Congress' decisions. It is composed of 37 Directors of National Meteorological and Hydro-meteorological Services, appointed in their individual capacity as representatives of their countries.

The current Permanent Representative (PR) of South Africa with WMO, Mr. Jerry Lengoasa is a member of the Council, serving in an acting capacity until the 18th WMO Congress scheduled for 2019. Subsequently, South Africa has expressed its interest to serve as an EC Member from WMO Congress-18 onwards. At sub-regional level, South Africa and Namibia are the only two countries that have expressed interest for the 2 allocated WMO EC seat and both the MASA and SADC SCOM sessions have supported these notions.

Despite the fact that MASA and SADC SCOM sessions of August 2018 have pledged their support for the two (2) SADC PRs for consideration for WMO EC seats, SAWS has engaged DIRCO on the matter and the official lobbying process is underway, to seek support from all countries that South Africa has diplomatic relations with. ✨

Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

— Zoleka Manona

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The Convention was agreed at the fifth session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee on mercury in Geneva, held in Switzerland on 19 January 2013 and was adopted later that year on 10 October 2013 at a Diplomatic Conference (Conference of Plenipotentiaries), held in Kumamoto, Japan. The Minamata Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, with a deadline for its implementation set for 2020.

SADC countries acknowledged the importance of ratifying and implementing this Convention. During the SADC Ministers meeting in Matsapa, Swaziland, in October 2016, Member States were urged to ratify the Minamata Convention in order to allow coordination and joint efforts by SADC to undertake programmes for successful implementation of the Convention.

Signing of the AMCOMET Constitution

— Zoleka Manona

In response to the major challenges related to the delivery of weather and climate services in Africa, the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) was initiated under the auspices of WMO and the African Union (AU) as a permanent forum where African Ministers convene every two years to discuss policy matters related to the development of meteorology and its applications as well as its contribution to the socio-economic development in Africa. The 1st Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa, which took place in April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya, established AMCOMET as a high-level policy mechanism and the inter-governmental authority for the development of meteorology and its applications in Africa, through the adoption of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration.

AMCOMET's key objectives are to promote political cooperation and streamline policies at a Pan-African level as well as advocate for sound decision-making based on robust science. AMCOMET should consolidate and build on previous achievements to further promote the effective use of weather and climate products and services that meet end-user requirements to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The signing of the AMCOMET Constitution was an agenda item of the SADC Meeting of Ministers held in Namibia in September 2018. The SADC National Meteorological Services were urged to engage with their Ministries to ensure the signing of AMCOMET Constitution by their countries, which will be subsequently followed by the paying of the annual subscriptions to AMCOMET in line with the provision of the Constitution. ✨

South Africa is a signatory to this Convention and is in the process of ratifying the Convention. Cascading this to SADC National Meteorological Services, the Directors were urged to commence the process of phasing out and replacing all meteorological instruments containing mercury before the set deadline. At technical level, SAWS has an implementation plan in place and has already commenced with phasing out instrumentation containing mercury. According to the plan, the 2020 deadline for the implementation of the Minamata Convention is expected to be met. ✨