



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**  
**Republic of South Africa**

Private Bag x427, Pretoria, 001, Tel: (012) 355 6119, Fax: (012) 3556139  
PO Box 47, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: (021) 787 6070, Fax: (021) 465 5870  
<http://www.dod.mil.za>

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS, THE HON MS NN MAPISA-NQAKULA MP, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AFRICA AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE EXHIBITION (AAD), Waterkloof Airforce Base, Pretoria, 14 September 2016.**

Programme Director,

Fellow Cabinet Colleagues and Deputy Ministers

The Premier of Gauteng, Mr David Makhura

The Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Mr Solly Msimanga

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Defence from various countries

Various Deputy Ministers of Defence representing their countries

Members of Parliament

The Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube

Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Solly Shoke

Members of the Plenary Defence Staff Council

Members of the Military Command Council

Permanent Secretaries and Secretaries of Defence here present

Visiting Chiefs of Defence Forces

Directors General and Representatives of state departments and Agencies

Captains of Defence Industries

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Military and Defence Attaches

Members of the media

It is my singular honour to welcome you on behalf of our President and Commander in Chief HE JG Zuma to our shores and to the 9th Edition of the African Aerospace and Defence Exhibition (AAD), the largest land, sea and air exhibition on the African continent. I wish to extend a warm welcome to all our dignitaries, my Cabinet Colleagues, Ministers of Defence from various countries and Deputy Ministers, dignitaries, exhibitors, representatives of government and foreign defence forces, as well as Captains of the defence industry to this biennial defence exhibition.

The testament to the status of this event is the Cabinet members present here as well as senior government officials together with a wide range of senior defence industry players from both national and international companies as represented today.

True to the theme for this edition of “Unleashing Africa’s Defence and Aerospace potential” – we have, for the first time, been honoured by the establishment of an African (Union) Pavilion. In this no less than six (6) of our continental partner nations are exclusively exhibiting. It goes without saying that we are very proud of this show which continues to cement its place among global aerospace and defence exhibitions. This year we have more than four hundred and forty (440)

exhibitors from thirty four (34) countries as well as no less than ninety five (95) display aircraft from several countries. Congratulations are due to the AAD team as led by Armscor for this success.

Defence Industries internationally are projected to be at the innovation frontier of research, design and development - the use of information and communication technologies and the adoption of new manufacturing technologies. The support we render to defence industries as governments is to build on these strategic capabilities as we build knowledge driven economies that are focused on value added exports and fuelled by innovation-led growth.

The exploitation of opportunities in the defence and security markets contributes to national skills generation, cost effective strategic positioning with a sophisticated, innovative and internationally focussed business base and employment creation and strong attraction of foreign direct investment. Research, development and innovation (RDI) in aerospace and defence are often used by governments as strategic instruments to position their national industries for increased competitiveness and market share. I therefore urge you to ensure that you use this show as a platform for collaboration in research and development, manufacturing and marketing of your equipment.

## Programme Director

As government we have moved towards a closer relationship between the Department of Defence and defence industries to ensure greater support and synchrony between the State and Private sector. In this way we can only move to greater heights of innovation and productivity. As the South African government catch line can attest – “Together moving South Africa Forward” and “Together we can do more”.

In March this year we successfully launched our National Defence Industry Council (NDIC) as prescribed by the Defence Review of 2015 and in support of our National New Growth Path (NGP) which seeks to support both the National Industrial Policy Framework (NIPF) and the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP). Both the NIPF and IPAP are intended to support employment creation in various key sectors including the manufacturing sectors that aerospace and defence are an integral and key part of. To this end, the role of Armscor – in collaboration with organised industry, both public and private – cannot be overemphasised.

I am happy to announce that some of the eight streams that emanated from operationalising NDIC have made huge progress and one of these is Industry Transformation Work Stream. To this end, I can formally announce that we now have a draft charter that awaits promulgation by the Minister of Trade and Industry. I wish to encourage all of you to constructively and meaningfully engage with

the broad consultative process to ensure that we produce a robust Charter for the South African Defence Industries (SADI) that will ensure the true transformation of this sector.

We place much importance on this charter for we recognise the paramountcy of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises in our economy and know that our government is equally sensitive to redistribution of wealth for the benefit of all South Africans in order to alleviate poverty. In the same vein as a department we have embarked on a Transformative Enterprise Development Programme through the Council for Science and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Through this initiative we are currently incubating five (5) Black companies and intend to support them from Research and Development to Industrialisation in various technology areas ranging from photonics, ICT and radar technologies. Once again, it is our expectation and a government directive that all government departments, institutions, agencies and SOC's like DENEL should contribute to deepening industrialisation and partnerships aimed at growing SMME's. We further wish to go beyond this and create black industrialists within the sector, and call upon existing companies to widen black ownership and participation in the Defence industry sector.

For our part we will at all times communicate very clearly on what needs to be done and what our expectations are from the industry, while the industry must remain focused on need-driven developments. It is with pride that the South African defence industries has been amongst the best and in the forefront of producing innovative products,

some of which have drawn the eyes of big defence industry players across the globe.

We are encouraged by the achievements of AAD to showcase the indigenous technologies of the region. As such the AAD is a platform that enables exhibitors to access the international purchasing and supply chain in aerospace and defence, as well as providing a platform to market both their product and brands.

It is pleasing to note the upsurge of international interest in our defence industries and for them to participate and exhibit in the AAD. This augurs well for our economy. It is also particularly gratifying to note that part of the exhibition also offers a comprehensive youth programme, which exposes our young people to engineering and technology, entrepreneurial skills, youth development and career opportunities. For us in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), a skilled youth is key to the future of the SANDF particularly as we work towards satisfying the requirements of the Human Resources Strategy and the Defence Review 2015.

Programme Director

As we celebrate the appointment of Lieutenant General Derrick Mgwebi as the Force Commander for MONUSCO as well as the successes that have been attained by our Rooivalk Attack Helicopter in that mission, we cannot rest on our laurels. It is that we are already engaged in processes of upgrading this platform.

For this purposes, and in line with the global trend of collaborative defence programs, we are willing to engage with like-minded partner nations in the areas of risk sharing co-development and co-production as we upgrade the Rooivalk platform.

In closing, we are grateful that all of you sitting here have honoured us with your presence at this exhibition and we have done all we can to ensure that it is as productive to you as we know it will be for us. We hope that you will have time to enjoy the best that our capital city, the province and country has to offer.

I hereby declare AAD 2016 to be officially opened and I wish you all the success.

**I Thank you!**