

Programme

UNISA Gauteng Region

The Inaugural Aerotropolis Symposium

“Building an Integrated Aerotropolis: Innovation, Connectivity and Sustainable Growth for Africa’s Aviation Future”

Day 1 – Wednesday, 29 October 2025

Programme Directors: Dr Genevieve James and Dr Smangele Ntuli
Sign Language Interpreter:

8:00 **Arrival and Registration**

9:00 **Opening and Welcome**
Prof MM Sepota: Registrar

9:15 ***The Aerotropolis Concept: Catalyst for Africa’s Growth***

9:45 ***Reconciling ICAO’s and the AU’s Vision for Sustainable Aviation and African Integration*** - Dr William Kiema: Aviation Law Expert, Kenya

10:15 Tea Break & Networking

10:45 Session 1: Aviation as a Driver of Provincial and National Economies

Panellists:

Airports Company South Africa (ACSA)

South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)

Mr. Essery Hamilton: City of Tshwane (Wonderboom Airport)

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11:30 Session 2: The Role of the African Union in Advancing Aviation: SAATM, Yamoussoukro Decision and AfCFTA

Panellists:

Mr Reece Lenting: University of Pretoria - Aviation Law

Prof. Stephen de Beer: University of Pretoria - Urban planning

12:15 Lunch Break

13:15 Session 3: Unlocking the Gauteng Aerotropolis: Infrastructure, Skills & Investment Pathways

Panellists:

Mr. V Shange: Gautrain Management Agency

Ms. Boitumelo Mpsi: Dube TradePort

Dr T Ngcamphalala: Unisa -Transport Economics

Gateway Airport Authority Limited

14:00 Closing Reflections for Day 1

Rapporteur's Summary & Closing Remarks:

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Day 2 – Thursday, 30 October 2025

8:00 Arrival & Networking Coffee

Programme Director: Prof Angelo Dube
Sign Language Interpreter:

9:00 Session 1: Policy, Regulation & Governance: Aligning National Frameworks with Continental and Global Aviation Agendas (SAATM implementation, AfCFTA integration, Yamoussoukro Decision progress)

Panellists:

South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)

Adv Lufuno Nevondwe

Adv Zola Majavu: Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)

9:45 Session 2: Entrepreneurship within Aerotropolis development

Panellists:

Unisa CEMS Entrepreneurship

Prof RT Mpofu: Inhlanyelo Hub NPC

Dr. SC Ntutela: Directorate of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation (DITTC)

Mr Thabiso Kutumela: TAGV Group

10:30 Comfort Break

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11:15 Session 3: Innovation, Technology & Digitalisation: Building Smart Aerotropolises
(Topics: 4IR technologies, drone integration, AI in aviation, cybersecurity)

Panellists:

Ms Kido Makubo: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Mr. Justin Melman: Aerospace-3D

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 Session 4: Green Aviation & Sustainability: The Role of Airports, Airlines and Communities (Focus: Sustainable Aviation Fuels, climate resilience, circular economy in aviation)

Panellists:

Mr. Kgabo Humphrey Thamaga: Environmental Expert

Ms. Noxolo Kunene: South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA)

City of Ekurhuleni

13:45 Closing Reflections for Day 2

Rapporteur's Summary & Closing Remarks:

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Day 3 – Friday, 31 October 2025

8:00 Arrival & Networking Coffee

Programme Director: Advocate Kgagudi Morota

Sign Language Interpreters:

9:00 Session 1: Aviation in the theatre of war – contemporary challenges and opportunities in the context of urban warfare

Panellists:

Dr Mfundo Nkosi

Prof Martie Bradley: University of Pretoria - Urban warfare

Dr Mutsa Mugangavari: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

9:45 Session 2: Sustainable Aerotropolis Development: Balancing Growth, Environment, and Communities in South Africa (Interdisciplinary engagement on urban planning, environmental law, renewable energy, and community inclusion)

Moderator: Adv Konanani Raligilia

Panellists:

Ms Lesego Serekwane: Marakanelo Travel and Events

Mr Jojo Mmakwa: Unisa - Environmental specialist

10:30 Comfort Break

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11:15 Session 3: Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economies: Positioning Gauteng's Aerotropolis as a Gateway to Africa (*Brings in the arts, culture, heritage, and tourism dimensions linked to aviation-driven development*)

Panellists:

Dr Lesedi Nduna: Unisa CEMS Tourism Management

Civil Society organizations

12:00 Lunch Break

**Parallel Student Symposium on Aviation Research
Venue: Bamboo Hall**

8:00 Arrival and Registration

9:00 Opening and welcome - Prof Angelo Dube

9:30 Word of encouragement - Gauteng Region Representative

9:45 Session 1: Air Transport & African Integration (AfCFTA, SAATM, YD)

Moderator: Prof Angelo Dube

Panellists

Sipho Matshie, LLM by Research candidate *"The Single African Sky as a catalyst towards the realisation of the Single African Air Transport Market"*.

Thula Mathonsi, LLM by Research candidate *"Achieving a unified curriculum for aviation personnel in Africa: A comparative study on harmonising aircraft, personnel training, licensing and certification in Africa through the benchmarking of the EASA model"*

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Siphiwe Vilakati, PhD Candidate *“Deregulation of aviation markets in the African Continental Free Trade Area”*

10:45 Comfort break

11:00 Session 2: Drone Operations and Emerging Technologies

Nivashnee Naraindath, PhD Candidate *“Creating a regulator model for right touch regulation in the transport sector in South Africa in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution”*

11:30 Session 3: Aerotropolis as a Driver of Local Economic Development

Masentle Masiane, MCom candidate, CEMS, *“The influence of work-life balance on job satisfaction amongst female pilots in Southern Africa”*

12:00 Lunch Break

Closing Ceremony

- 13:00 Rapporteur's Summary
- 13:20 Recognition of Student Participants
- 13:40 Closing Remarks: *UNISA Leadership*