

National Treasury Breakfast at AAD 2024: Strengthening Collaboration with the Defence Industry



On the morning of 20 September 2024, the AMD Chalet at AAD 2024 hosted a landmark event: the National Treasury Breakfast, marking the first engagement between the South African National Treasury and the country's defence ecosystem. The gathering, which took place in the presence of distinguished guests, aimed to facilitate dialogue on key issues affecting the defence sector and set the stage for enhanced cooperation. Deputy Ministers of Defence and Military Veterans, General (ret) Bantu Holomisa and Deputy Minister Hlophe and Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya.

Mr Mathebula from National Treasury presented on the intricacies of the new Procurement Act and the process for the drafting of the procurement regulations.

A robust Q&A session followed, where critical concerns were raised:

1. Sectoral Provisions: Advocate Nandipha Ntshaluba highlighted the need for vertical and horizontal integration within the defence sector, emphasising clear guidelines for implementation.
2. Security Sector Regulations: Dr Mthobisi Zondi, Chairperson of the AMD Innovation and Future Defence Committee discussed the development of a strategic framework, calling for regulations that cater to the specific needs of the defence and security sectors.
3. Procurement Challenges: The Chief of SANDF noted the uniqueness of SANDF acquisitions, stressing the importance of tailored procurement solutions.

Other significant points raised included the role of local content and production, monitoring tools and the importance of ring-fencing resources for defence procurement. The National Treasury Breakfast marked a vital moment in the promotion of cooperation between National Treasury and the defence industry. This engagement emphasised the need for continued dialogue to ensure that financial and regulatory frameworks support the defence sector's growth, sustainability and transformation.

The event concluded with the handing out of small tokens of appreciation to the speakers and key participants, as a cornerstone event of AAD 2024, the breakfast set a promising precedent for future collaboration between National Treasury and the defence sector, ensuring that both parties can work in unison to meet the country's strategic and economic goals.



SAAMDEC Celebrates a Decade of Excellence

On Friday, 20 September 2024, the South African Aerospace Maritime and Defence Export Council (SAAMDEC) marked a significant milestone—its 10th anniversary. The event, held with great prestige, brought together key stakeholders from across the industry, including representatives from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic), the Department of Defence and Armscor.

The celebration reflected SAAMDEC's decade-long journey of promoting South Africa's defence and aerospace industries on the global stage. Mr Ndlovu, CEO of SAAMDEC, took the opportunity to express his gratitude to the many partners and stakeholders whose support has been instrumental in SAAMDEC's success. He attributed the council's achievements to the concerted efforts of these key players, emphasising the importance of collaboration between government departments and industry. Alluding to a significant milestone, he remarked "in the beginning, we exported to 15 African Countries and today, 10 years later, we are exporting to about 35 African countries."

Mr. Isaac Motale, former Chairperson of SAAMDEC, served as the Programme Director for the evening. In his remarks, he provided a brief but poignant history of SAAMDEC's formation, recounting the dedication and hard work that went into

establishing the Export Council. Mr Motale credited much of these efforts to the leadership of the then AMD Chairperson, Mr Dean Mogale, and the former Executive Director of the Association, Mr Simphiwe Hamilton. He spoke fondly of their vision and commitment, which laid the foundation for the council's current success.

The current Chairperson of SAAMDEC, Mr Cornelius Grundling, also addressed the audience, commending Mr Ndlovu for his diligent leadership and his role in steering the Export Council to greater heights. His words of praise sparked a round of applause from the stakeholders in attendance, recognising Mr Ndlovu's strategic direction and hands-on approach in running the council.

Mr Motale concluded by extending his heartfelt thanks to the Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD), which provides crucial support to SAAMDEC's operations, as well as to the various stakeholders who continue to play an active role in SAAMDEC's success.

As SAAMDEC celebrates its first decade, the event was a reminder of the power of collaboration and the bright future that lies ahead for South Africa's defence and aerospace industries on the global stage.

Celebrating Remarkable Service:

Honouring Magda Cloete, Maleisa Santho and Michelle Nxumalo at AAD 2024

From an AMD perspective, AAD 2024 was not only a showcase of cutting-edge technology and innovation but also a moment to celebrate the dedication and achievements of three extraordinary women who have made significant contributions to the Association.

On Friday, 20 September 2024, at the AMD Chalet, a special event took place to honour Magda Cloete, Maleisa Santho, and Michelle Nxumalo. The occasion brought together colleagues, industry leaders and friends to reflect on their outstanding service and celebrate the indelible marks they have left on AMD.



Magda Cloete: 25 Years of Dedication

Celebrating her 25th anniversary with AMD, Magda Cloete's unwavering commitment and exceptional service were highlighted. As the Administrative Officer and Personal Assistant to the Executive Director, Magda has been a pillar of support, ensuring the smooth operation of the organisation over the past quarter-century. Her loyalty and professionalism were deeply acknowledged, as she continues to be a reliable resource and mentor to her colleagues. In his tribute to her, Mr Ndlovu remarked, "Back in 2002, we celebrated 30 years of AMD and for 25 years, Magda has been a consistent feature in those 30 years, so if you look at AMD today, you cannot define it without Magda in that definition; what sits between those 2 ears is the entire encyclopaedia of the South African Defence Industry, I kid you not"

Former AMD Executive Director Mr Simphiwe Hamilton paid a touching tribute to Magda, lauding her not only for her years of service but for her kindness, resilience and ability to handle the demands of her role with grace and expertise.

Maleisa Santho: A Decade of Financial Stewardship

Honoured alongside Magda was Maleisa Santho, who served as AMD's Finance Manager for a decade. Maleisa's expertise ensured that AMD's financial operations were conducted with utmost integrity and transparency. Her attention to detail and ability to manage complex financial portfolios helped steer AMD toward a position of fiscal stability and growth.

Mr Ndlovu, in his tribute to Maleisa, highlighted her meticulous work ethic, professionalism and the vital role she played in safeguarding AMD's financial health. He reflected on how her leadership and oversight ensured the integrity of the Association's financial affairs. Such was her impact that, upon announcing her departure, Mr Ndlovu personally requested that Maleisa interview the identified candidate for her role and provide her assessment on whether the individual could meet the high standards she had set.



Michelle Nxumalo: A Visionary

Michelle Nxumalo's 11 years with AMD were marked by her creativity and innovation. As Marketing and Research Manager, Michelle drove AMD's marketing initiatives with bold vision and strategic insight. In the first half of 2024, as Acting Chairperson, Michelle demonstrated strong leadership, guiding AMD through a critical transition period and promoting collaboration within the industry.

Mr Ndlovu's tribute to Michelle was particularly moving as he highlighted her ability to navigate challenges and build consensus through her work. He praised Michelle remarking "you are not a minute taker, you contribute to ideas, you drive and you lead"

A Combined Celebration of Excellence

The celebration was a fitting tribute to the remarkable contributions of Magda, Maleisa and Michelle. It served as a reminder of the enduring impact these three women have had on AMD's success. As the evening unfolded, stories were shared, laughter echoed and heartfelt moments captured the essence of the occasion.

As a token of appreciation for their years of dedicated service, each honouree was presented with a special gift. These thoughtful mementos symbolised not only AMD's gratitude but also the deep respect and admiration their colleagues and the broader industry hold for them. It was a gesture that underscored the importance of their roles in shaping the Association's legacy. AAD 2024 will be remembered not only for its technological innovations but also for honouring the exceptional women whose service and dedication have shaped the future of AMD.

AAD 2024 at a Glance: A Showcase of South Africa's Defence and Aerospace Capabilities

The Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo 2024 has once again proven to be one of the most significant events on the global defence and aerospace calendar. Held at the Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria from 18-22 September, AAD 2024 brought together key players from across the globe to showcase the latest innovations, technologies and products that are driving the future of the defence industry. For South Africa, the event is more than just an exhibition; it is a powerful platform that highlights the country's growing capabilities in aerospace, maritime and defence sectors.

AAD 2024 stands as a symbol of collaboration, technological advancement and national pride. With exhibitors from around the world, the event provides a unique opportunity for South African companies to engage with international partners, foster collaborations and promote their world-class products to new markets.

A defining feature of AAD 2024 was the presence of the National Pavilion, supported by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic). The Pavilion showcased a variety of South African businesses, particularly emerging companies, demonstrating the DTIC's critical role in advancing the defence sector by providing support and encouraging participation in international trade. Companies like Aditive Solutions, Areta Consultants, Defcon Protec and Desert Wolf Consulting exhibited their cutting-edge capabilities in advanced manufacturing, security systems, and other fields. In addition, Nylo Comp Distributors, PJ Aviation, Sovereignty Systems and Unipro Protective Wear highlighted their contributions to protective gear, aviation technology and cybersecurity.



Exhibiting Members of AMD

A highlight of AAD 2024 was the strong presence of AMD members, whose innovative products and services highlight the Association's vital role in shaping South Africa's defence industry. The exhibitors represented a wide spectrum of capabilities across aerospace, maritime and land-based defence technologies.

AMD members that exhibited at AAD 2024 include: Armscor, Aselsan, Cobra Aviation, Armiger, DCD Protected Mobility, Damen Shipyards, CSIR, Denel, Dirts Africa, Incomar Aeronautics, Camsteel, Global Command & Control Technologies, Hensoldt, LS Telecom, Milkor, Thales, Reutech, OTB Technologies, Paramount, Redeployable Camp Systems, SAAB Grintek Defence, Rheinmetall Denel Munition, Sandcock Austral, Twiga Services and Logistics.

AAD 2024 represents a crucial platform for South African companies to display their world-class capabilities to an international audience. The presence of AMD members and companies supported by the DTIC underscores the importance of government and industry collaboration in driving the country's defence sector forward. By participating in AAD, South African businesses not only strengthen ties with international partners but also promote innovation, ensuring that the country remains competitive in the global defence market.

This year's event has been a resounding success, highlighting the excellence of South Africa's defence industry and the importance of continued support from both the public and private sectors. Through events like AAD 2024, South Africa continues to position itself as a key player in the global defence landscape, showcasing the best the country has to offer in innovation, technology, innovation and expertise.

FEATURE

AMD Whistle-Blowing Channel

We wish to inform you about the introduction of a new "Whistle-Blowing Channel". Reports and concerns related to any whistle-blowing matters can be directed to the Chairperson of the AMD Risk and Audit Committee at whistleblower@amd.org.za. Though we have not yet received any reports through this channel, it is crucial to emphasise the significance of this mechanism in fostering transparency and accountability within our association. The establishment of the Whistle-Blowing Channel underscores our commitment to providing a secure avenue for individuals to raise concerns and contribute to maintaining the highest ethical standards in our operations.

