

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Civil Aviation Authority Boss Crowned Business Leader of the Year

[Johannesburg]. Ms Poppy Khoza, who heads the South African Civil Aviation (SACAA) as Director of Civil Aviation, has been crowned the 2018 Top Empowered Business Leader of the Year. The award was handed to her at the 17th Oliver Top Empowerment Awards held on 12 April 2018 in Johannesburg.

The awards put a shining spotlight on economic empowerment and transformation initiatives in the country, and give recognition to leadership and innovation that advance true empowerment.

This year the focus was on crowning individuals and entities for their contributions in driving the empowerment agenda, which contributes to growth and equity in the economy.

Through deliberate, targeted and well-defined interventions, public discussions and business networking sessions, Top Empowerment challenges public and private sectors to continually benchmark and improve their performance to boost growth and equity in the economy.

“As the Regulator, we hope that this award will serve as a beacon of hope for the civil aviation industry, which is still lagging behind in terms of transformation. Current personnel and ownership statistics indicate that the civil aviation industry is yet to fully embrace the transformation agenda. However, this award, together with SACAA’s demographics, exemplify that with determination and focus, true and meaningful transformation can be achieved,” Khoza explained.

Rylan Fisher, Top Empowerment Editorial Director elaborated: "Our 13 award categories cover the breadth of sectors in the empowerment space and we were excited by the large amount of interest, with over 150 nominations of companies from across South Africa. We have seen outstanding competition this year and all of our finalists have shown that they are among the best in advancing transformation in South Africa. We are proud to honour the 2018 Top Empowerment winners for their superior contributions as South Africa’s best-in-class companies and individuals, who lead the nation in enhancing the possibilities of equal economic participation, and who deliver exceptional results in the face of challenges.”

Khoza’s individual brilliance has permeated across the organisation that she leads. Since her appointment at the end of 2013, the performance of the SACAA has drastically improved, especially in the last three (3) consecutive financial years, which saw the SACAA attain 100% against its set targets. Most importantly, and as a result of Khoza’s pragmatic drive to entrench good corporate governance across the organisation, the SACAA has received the Auditor-General’s Clean Audit Award for five (5) consecutive years. The Clean Audit Award is bestowed on entities that not only achieve a clean or unqualified audit in terms of operational and financial performance, but have also worked hard to comply with the relevant statutes and also entrenched the vital tenets of good corporate governance within their respective organisations.

“These and other accolades dispel the unfortunate myth that transformation requires or eventually leads to the dropping of standards. These honours also put to rest the argument that competent transformation candidates are hard or nowhere to be found,” Khoza elaborated.

Khoza’s and the SACAA’s bulging trophy cabinets feature many awards, key among them being the under-mentioned:

Awards Conferred on Ms Khoza

- Winner of the Best Chief Executive Officer Award conferred during the 2015 National Transport Awards;
- Winner of a 2012 Meritorious Award as South Africa’s Most Influential Woman in Business and Government;
- Runner-up for the Best Chief Executive Officer in Transport during the 2016 Annual Transport Awards;
- Finalist for the 2014 Africa’s Most Influential Women in Business and Government Award; and
- Winner of the Top Empowered: Public Service Leader of the Year at the 15th Oliver Empowerment Awards in 2016.

Awards Conferred on SACAA

- Winner of the Auditor-General of South Africa’s Clean Audit Award - five consecutive years.
- Winner of the Annual Transport Awards’ Best-Performing Institution - three consecutive years.
- Winner of the National Business Awards’ Top-Performing Public Service Award in 2015.
- Second position for the Transport and Logistics Award at the National Business Awards in 2015.
- Winner of the ‘Investing in People’ category of the National Business Awards in November 2017.

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About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (“SACAA”) is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) (“the Act”). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board (“the Board”). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

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