



**THE CHAIRPERSON OF SITA, MR ZUKILE NOMVETE GIVES AN OPENING ADDRESS AND WELCOMES GUESTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDUSTRY DAY ORGANIZED AND HOSTED BY THE AGENCY**

**DATE:** FRIDAY 15 JULY 2016

**VENUE:** SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE, GAUTENG

Thank you Programme Director:

- To the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Dr Siyabonga Cwele, thank you for gracing us with your presence, and as always we are inspired by your vision and comforted by your leadership
- The Chief Executive Officer of the State Information Technology Agency, Dr. Setumo Mohapi
- Members of the SITA Board present here today
- The SITA top management as represented by various Executives
- Captains of the industry and other representatives from the private sector, we welcome you
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning and thanks for honouring our call.

The SITA Industry Day is a deliberate and strategic platform created to provide the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) with the opportunity to constructively engage with its critical stakeholders, not least of which is the ICT industry, in an ongoing effort to build and cement mutual relationships characterized by our desire to position the ICT sector as a strategic enabler to the government and the citizens of South Africa.

Ours today is a meeting of the minds to fathom the realities and challenges that are facing our country and our people but in doing so we are led by the hearts which are committed to reach deeper into the ICT space to realize potentials and come up with solutions through innovations that promote social development, economic growth and international competitiveness.

It's a patriotic call to collaborate and cooperate in repositioning our sector, our government and our country to deliver on the vision and ideals of a prosperous and thriving society, for the betterment of our people.

As SITA we are cognisant of our strategic role, poised between the government and the industry to facilitate relationships that promote economic associations, good governance, improved service delivery and citizen value. We remain indebted to the government as our shareholder and to you the industry, as our business partners for our success and our wellbeing.

Stakeholder engagement is one of the critical and key drivers to cultivate those relations and ultimately assist in fulfilling SITA's mandate.

We call on the industry to join hands and establish an agenda that will drive South African ICT economy into a healthy thriving one; that creates jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities and inspires confidence into the future as envisaged in the National Development Plan.

We know that the time has now arrived for us to start engaging robustly on how you would like to see us manage the Agency and conduct business in a manner that will be of service to you, our suppliers, so as to ensure we move from only doing what is in our mandate but doing it so well that we begin to see tangible benefits for the government, the country and its citizens.

I have with me today the SITA Executive team who will share with you the work that we have put into the Agency for the past year to make it work, as well as the plans that are in place to ensure future successes. Of importance

we need to hear your voice. We need your honest inputs albeit constructive criticism on how we are currently doing things as opposed to how we should be doing things. Ultimately we need to work with yourselves for the common good of South Africans.

Colleagues, the SITA mandate is clear and very simple – it is to be the lead ICT agency for **government** and specifically, **to improve service delivery to the public** through promotion of the use of **cost-effective, well-maintained** and **secure** information and communication technologies. Are we doing that?

Are we the lead ICT agency for government that adds value to the state in a manner appreciated by the citizens? Working with the industry, is SITA enabled to provide government departments with cost effective, well maintained and secure ICT platforms? Any answer to the contrary will be an indictment to the Agency, and to the industry.

Chapter four of the National Development Plan (NDP) states that to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth by 2030, South Africa needs to invest in a strong network of economic infrastructure designed to support the country's medium and long term objectives. The work has started with the SA Connect and the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services is with us here today to share on some of the critical milestones in the National Development Plan and the challenges that still lie ahead.

ICT has changed radically over the past two decades, giving rise to the NDP's expectations that by 2030 ICT will be the catalyst of the development of an inclusive and dynamic information society as well as knowledge economy that is flourishing. This should meet the needs of the public and private sector, providing wide range of services to everyone, including the citizens, at a cost and quality at least equal to South Africa's competitors.

This is a South Africa that we are dreaming of. A South Africa fully powered by technology to make the lives of the citizens easier.

As I welcome you, I invite everyone to engage candidly. Where there are limitations or constraints, let's open up and talk about those. We need to have a mutual understanding of the best way in which SITA and the industry can deliver services to the Public in a cost effective manner. We need to promote and encourage ICT innovation which leads to home-grown products and services. As alluded, innovation is one area that can open up opportunities, both social, economic and technological.

We need to innovate, to remain competitive and reduce the cost of doing business through information sharing, updates and exchanging of ideas with the ICT Industry. We need to thoroughly examine the ICT challenges ahead and determine how to create practical solutions and responses to meet the government ICT agenda of the NDP and seek alignment with the ICT Industry and associations in offering integrated, functional and effective governance systems, whilst underlining the importance of ICT innovation and research and development to support effective and efficient service delivery (ICT Solutions as an Enabler).

As SITA when we sum up the mandate we take out one critical thing - Transforming the lives of the Citizens through ICT. SITA is a transforming organisation and we are lobbying you our stakeholders - the industry at large - to collaborate in its transformation journey of reducing the cost, inefficiency, reduce delivery risk and improve service delivery through innovations for development.

In closing, I am assuring you that at SITA it's not business as usual - the tides have turned. SITA is reclaiming its position of being the lead ICT agency for **government to improve service delivery to the public** through the innovative use of **cost-effective, well-maintained** and **secure** information and communication technologies. Your contribution remains indispensable.

Thank you.