



**15 November 2024**

### **Breaking Barriers: Visually Impaired Graduates Shine in Aviation Law**

In a historic milestone, eight visually impaired law graduates have completed the pioneering 5-day Aviation Law course offered by ATNS at its esteemed Aviation Training Academy, located near OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa.

This groundbreaking initiative was made possible through the dedicated collaboration between ATNS, Blind SA, and Disability Connect, a non-profit organization committed to supporting the visually impaired student community.

As part of its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) agenda, ATNS has ensured the accessibility of the Aviation Law module by translating it into Braille and large print. This innovative workshop was designed to equip participants with the essential knowledge and skills to explore new career opportunities within the aviation sector, enhancing their professional competencies and broadening their horizons.

Today, each of the graduates proudly received their certificates of attendance, marking a significant achievement in their professional journeys.

This accomplishment highlights the importance of inclusivity in education and sets a precedent for future initiatives to break down barriers and create opportunities for all. ATNS remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every individual has the chance to thrive and succeed.

**Here are the candidates sharing their experiences:**



**Sonya Lee Mahabeer**

Sonya is a Senior Legal Counsel at a leading financial services provider specialising in investments, leveraging over a decade of experience in the legal field. She holds an LLB degree, was admitted as an attorney in 2014, and possess a Postgraduate Diploma in Financial I recently attended an aviation law workshop hosted by ATNS, which offered valuable insights into international navigation laws and compliance. It enhanced my understanding of safety and airline operations while emphasizing the role of regulatory bodies. Many thanks to the ATNS team for their commitment to inclusivity and for a transformative experience that has contributed to my growth.



**Thonifho Ramabaga**

I am originally from Ha-Budeli in Limpopo, Vhembe, and currently live in Durban, KZN, where I work as a Compliance Specialist in the Legal & Compliance Department at Transnet Port Terminal.

The Aviation Law Workshop was insightful, enhancing our knowledge of regulatory frameworks and Air Navigation operations, as well as stakeholder relationships involving Air Traffic and the South African Civil Aviation Authority. Future participants should approach the subject with an open mind and operational focus. I appreciate ATNS Management for their hospitality and support during this initiative.



**Nomfundo Nomelo Tembe (middle)**

**Tembe**, a vibrant young woman from Kwa-Ngwanase KZN, currently resides in Richards Bay and works as a junior attorney at Mandla Ntuli Inc. She specializes in personal injury claims, conveyancing, labor law, and administration of deceased estates. Holding an LLB degree and pursuing a master's in Tax Law,

“I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the ATNS management team for hosting the Air Law Workshop,” says **Tembe**. She appreciates their effort to make the event “accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities,” setting a standard for empowering all individuals. This workshop has expanded her understanding of air law and reinforced the importance of accessible knowledge, demonstrating that everyone deserves equal opportunities to thrive in the field.



My name is **Yamkela Madlebe**, I am from the Eastern Cape, but I am currently residing in Pretoria East. I am currently looking for employment. I have completed the following an LLB Degree, Media and Communication Studies, Post Graduate Diploma in Information Science, Computer Certificate, Business Administration Certificate, Alternative Dispute Resolution Certificate, Senior Peer Counsellor Certificate and a Capricorn Career Exhibition Certificate.

“I have learned to understand Aviation Law in its practical applicability and the international instruments that govern the aviation industry.”



My name is **Gregory Letsholo** and I was born and raised in the North West Province in a small township called Agisanang in Sannieshof, but currently reside in the Vaal Triangle. Letsholo has attained an LLB degree and is currently registered for an LLM degree in Labour Law with the University of Limpopo, focusing on the effectiveness of the South African labour law framework regarding job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

“I was impressed by the level of hospitality and the willingness to learn from the general staff members of ATNS.” He says he is, “intrigued by the field of Aviation Law and wishes to learn and study further, especially the difference between aviation law in comparison to other branches of law.”



### **Ntsako Mukansi**

**Mukansi** hails from Ka Mageva Village in Giyani, Limpopo province. Born and raised there, he is currently unemployed but is currently a final-year master's in law student (LLM). He also holds an English Teaching Certificate (TESOL)

“I found the Aviation Law Workshop insightful. I am keener to finding out more about the applicability of Aviation Law in practice,” says **Mukansi**.



**Motlatsi Kgosimore** is an LLM candidate in International Cyber Law, currently transitioning from the University of Johannesburg to Bielefeld University in Germany. His research, supervised by Professors Strydom, Bradley, and Boothby, focuses on the inadequacies of current legal frameworks in regulating cyber warfare. In 2024, he participated in four international programs, earning certificates in International Cyber Law, International Armed Conflict, International Child Protection, and the Law of Weapons. His expertise also extends to Indian Constitutional Law, which he studied at Nirma University. Motlatsi's skills were showcased when he represented the University of Johannesburg in the Jessup International Law Moot Court competition, where his team won nationally and received the best memorials award. Academically, he has excelled, achieving 18 distinctions in his LLB degree.



**Siphon Chauke**

**Chauke**, originally from Malamulele in Limpopo, now resides in Kaalfontein near Midrand, Gauteng. He holds an LLB, Computer Literacy, and Alternative Dispute Resolution certificates, and is pursuing a master's in labour law at the University of Limpopo.

“I appreciate the opportunity provided by the workshop, especially as a blind individual,” says **Chauke**.

**Issued by Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) SOC Ltd**