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17 March 2021

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2021: CELEBRATING OUR CONNECTION TO THE OCEAN, OUR CLIMATE AND WEATHER

The South African Weather Service will celebrate World Meteorological Day (WMD) on 23 March 2021, where it will reflect on themes relating to World Meteorological Day, *The ocean, our climate and weather* and our impact-based forecasting system during an online event with Minister Barbara Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment.

World Meteorological Day is celebrated annually by countries forming part of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a Specialised Agency of the United Nations. The WMO was established by means of the United Nations Convention on the World Meteorological Organization in 1950, as the successor of the International Meteorological Organization, created in 1873. WMO's mission is to support the countries of the world in providing meteorological and hydrological services to protect lives and property from natural disasters related to weather, climate and water, to safeguard the environment, and to contribute to sustainable development.

The WMD theme for 2021 - *The ocean, our climate and weather* – celebrates WMO's focus in connecting the ocean, climate and weather within the Earth System. It also marks the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

As South Africa is surrounded by a large body of water from two oceans, the impact of oceans on its weather and climate is significant. With Climate Change occurring at a rapid pace, the influence thereof on our local and regional weather systems dictate that our Severe Weather Impact Based Forecasts should be of the highest quality. While this system has been operational

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Company Secretary: Ms Thandi Zide

over the past season, several positive results have been yielded, especially during the cyclone season, where South Africa was especially affected by cyclone Eloise.

On 23 March 2021 an online seminar will be held from 11:00 -12:30 during which the above two themes will be presented by the South African Weather Service. It is expected that Minister Barbara Creecy will do the Keynote address.

Draft programme:

Programme Director: SAWS Acting CEO Mr. Mnikeli Ndabambi

11:00 Welcome and introduction of the Minister – Board Chairperson

11:05 South Africa's role in its surrounding oceans – Senior Manager: Marine

11:20 Reflecting on South Africa's Impact-based Forecasting successes over the past season – Senior Manager: Forecasting

11:35 Keynote Address: The role of the World Meteorological Organization and the South African Weather Service and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment in Climate Change – Honorable Minister Barbara Creecy

11:55 Questions and answers

12:20 Vote of Thanks – Dr. Mmaphaka Tau

The media is invited to attend a Teams meeting by confirming via email with

hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za or musiiwa.denga@weathersa.co.za by Friday, 19 March 2021.

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