

# OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAMME

## 2026 AFRICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (AfAS) CONFERENCE



March 23, 2026



0830 HRS



WILD VIEW RESORT, KASANE

**Programme Director:** Mr Michael Moleleke,  
Director, Linkages & Partnerships

### OPENING CEREMONY: SESSION I

	Agenda Item	Lead Person	Time (Hrs)
1.	Arrival of Guests	All	0830 – 0900
2.	Assistant Minister's Arrival	<b>Mr Shawn Ntlhaile</b> Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications & Innovation	0850 – 0900
3.	National Anthem	All	0900 – 0902
4.	Prayer	<b>Pastor Dan Job</b>	0902 – 0905
5.	SHE Moment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hotel Announcement</li><li>Wildlife Awareness Notice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms Shallot Lebekwe, Wild View Resort</li><li>Mr David Bolokang, Wildlife Department</li></ul>	0905 – 0910 0920 – 0920
6.	Introduction of high-level delegates	<b>Ms Seele Chabata</b> District Performance Improvement Coordinator, Chobe District	0920 – 0930
7.	Welcome Remarks	<b>Mr Mokwena Balemogeng</b> Mothusa Kgosi, Kazungula	0930 – 0940
8.	Address by the BIUST Vice-Chancellor	<b>Prof Elisha Shemang</b> Acting Vice-Chancellor, BIUST	0940 – 0950
9.	Address by the AfAS President	<b>Prof Amare Abebe</b> President, AfAS	0950 – 1000
10.	Entertainment	<b>Matsosa Ngwao</b> , Traditional Dance Group	1000 – 1005
11.	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker	<b>Mr Kevin Masupe</b> BIUST Secretary & Registrar	1005 – 1007
12.	Keynote Address	<b>Mr Shawn Ntlhaile</b> Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications & Innovation	1007 – 1020
13.	Entertainment	<b>Matsosa Ngwao</b> , Traditional Dance Group	1020 – 1025
14.	Vote of Thanks	<b>Mr Kevin Masupe</b> BIUST Secretary & Registrar	1025 – 1035
15.	Ribbon Cutting & Photoshoot Session	<b>High-level Delegates</b>	1035 – 1045
16.	Tea	All	1035 – 1110

# OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAMME

## 2026 AFRICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (AfAS) CONFERENCE



March 23, 2026



0900 HRS



WILD VIEW RESORT, KASANE

**Programme Director:** Mr Michael Moleleke,  
Director, Linkages & Partnerships

### OPENING CEREMONY: SESSION II

	Agenda Item	Lead Person	Time (Hrs)
17.	Astronomy Program in Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr Kgomotso Thelo</b> Director, AVN/SKA Directorate, BIUST</li><li>• <b>Prof. Michael Bode</b> Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics, Liverpool John Moores University, Visiting Professor, BIUST</li></ul>	1110 – 1125
18.	Address by the Department of Science, Technology & Innovation	<b>Mr Takalani Nemaungani</b> Chief Director - Astronomy, Department of Science, Technology & Innovation	1125 – 1135
19.	SARAO Africa Programme	<b>Dr Carla Sharpe Mitchell</b> Coordinator, Africa Programme	1135 – 1125
20.	Address by the SKAO	<b>Dr Lindsay Magnus</b> SKA-Mid Telescope Director	1125 – 1135
21.	Address by DARA	<b>Prof. Melvin Hoare</b> Coordinator, DARA	1135 – 1145
22.	Address by TART	<b>Dr Timothy Molteno</b> University of Otago & Director, Electronics Research Foundation New Zealand	1145 – 1155
23.	Entertainment	<b>Mr Steve Sottie</b> AfAS Delegate Performance	1155 – 1200
24.	Address by BOTSAT	<b>Dr Dimane Mpoeleng</b> BOTSAT Project Lead, BIUST	1200 – 1210
25.	Address by the European Astronomical Society (EAS)	<b>Dr Nabila Aghanim (Virtual)</b> Vice-President, European Astronomical Society	1210 – 1220
26.	Address by the American Astronomical Society (AAS)	<b>Dr Dara Norman (Virtual)</b> President, American Astronomical Society	1220 – 1230
27.	Closing: Overview of the Conference Activities in Kasane	<b>Dr Fahmi Mokhupuki</b> 2026 AfAS Conference LOC Chairman	1230 - 1245