

**REMARKS BY THE UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY DIRECTOR
GENERAL, MR. FRED K. BAMWESIGYE AT THE PARTIAL EMERGENCY
EXERCISE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**

**Members of the Press,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I warmly welcome you all to Entebbe International Airport this afternoon.

We have just successfully concluded conducting a mandatory partial emergency exercise to test for Entebbe International Airport's readiness in case of an emergency. This time round the drill simulated a situation in which an aircraft crashes shortly after takeoff and one of its engines catches fire on the threshold of the runway.

It was presumed that 'some people lost their lives and a number of survivors were critically injured', which sparked off an emergency situation involving airport fire-fighters and other rescue agencies that were called in to 'save lives'. The exercise helped us to test emergency plans and procedures, communication framework, response times and coordination abilities of the participants.

We sincerely thank our valued stakeholders who joined us by participating in the partial exercise, including medics from various hospitals, Uganda Red Cross Society, Police Medical Services, Uganda Peoples Defense Air Force (UPDAF), Aviation Police, Entebbe Police Fire Brigade, national security agencies, Uganda Airlines, ground handling agents, volunteers who acted as injured passengers and UCAA staff, among others.

The exercise, which has been successfully concluded is a mandatory requirement for international Airports of countries that are contracting member States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The last partial emergency exercise was held in December 2020 and the full-scale emergency exercise in November 2022.

Members of the Press,

In other developments, there is a positive surge in passenger traffic and aircraft movements at Entebbe International Airport.

In May 2024, Entebbe Airport facilitated 92,298 arrivals and 89,036 departures, a total of 181,334 international passengers which is an average of 5,849. This comes on the heels of a daily average of 5,313 in April 2024, 5,548 in March 2024, 6,116 in February 2024 and 6,329 in January 2024. A comparison of May 2024, to May 2023 traffic shows that the Airport facilitated 28,324 more passengers in May 2024 than in the same period of May 2023.

You may recall that by the end of 2023, Entebbe International Airport recorded 1.93 million International passengers compared to 1.57 million passengers in 2022.

In relation to cargo, imports were 2,442 metric tons and exports were 4,010 metric tons in May 2024.

Thank you for listening.