

TALKING POINTS FOR THE UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (UCAA) DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. FRED K. BAMWESIGYE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JOINTLY ADDRESSED BY THE UGANDA PROFESSIONAL PILOTS ASSOCIATION AND UCAA IN THE VIP PRESS ROOM AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The President and Executive of the Uganda Professional Pilots Association

Members of the press

Ladies and gentlemen

Uganda Civil Aviation Authority is pleased to join the Uganda Professional Pilots Association in supporting their arrangements for an Aviation Expo scheduled for June 22-24, 2023 at Entebbe International Airport.

As detailed by the Chairman of UPPA, the Aviation Expo will feature various components, including opportunities for students and the general public to get more information about career guidance in relation to the aviation industry, aerobatics, static aircraft exhibitions providing opportunities to the public to enter aircraft and view the cockpit, talk to cabin and flight crew and get deeper – first-hand knowledge of air transport operations. The Aviation Expo has an exciting bit where some members of the public will get a chance to fly for the first time on payment of a modest fee, and these will be flown around Kampala for around 30-40 minutes.

This is not the first time that the aviation industry is hosting such an exciting activity. In 2012 as the country celebrated Uganda's 50th Independence Anniversary, a massive Air Show was held under the theme Fly @50 for 50k. The flying cost was low because UCAA had fully sponsored the Air Show and the objective was to give the flying public an opportunity to fly. About 2,100 people had a chance to fly. This time round the event isn't fully sponsored hence the rationale for entry and flying fees to enable UPPA deliver a good product.

Previously, we held mini Air Shows at Mbarara Airfield in 2005 and Kajjansi Airfield, earlier on. The public response has been massive at all previous such events, and the plan is to continue holding the events at different Airfields across the country, in future, putting into consideration other logistical requirements. The upcoming event is expected to be spiced up with entertainment to keep the public engaged.

UCAA has deemed it prudent to support the UPPA in holding this Aviation Expo because it is a good opportunity to further demystify the seemingly complex aviation industry and encourage the public to use air transport services.

This is coming at a time when the aviation industry is slowly recovering from the adverse effects of COVID-19. In April 2023, Entebbe International Airport recorded a total of 127,283

passengers (62,413 arrivals and 64,870 departures), an average of 4,242 per day compared to 122,341 in the same period of April 2022 (an average of 4,078 per day).

In the period between January to March 2023, a total of 402,314 international passengers were handled through Entebbe International Airport compared to 414,431 in the same period of January to March 2019, before the pandemic.