

Remarks by the Director General of Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Fred K. Bamwesigye At the Commissioning of The Modernization And Automation Of Entebbe International Airport Project By The Korea International Corporation Agency (KOICA) On September 22, 2022.

**The Guest of Honor,
His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Park Sung-soo
The Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors, UCAA
The Country Director of KOICA,
The Management of UCAA,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Entebbe International Airport (EIA) for the grand commissioning of the Modernization and Automation of Entebbe International Airport project.

The collaboration between Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Uganda Civil Aviation Authority that started in 2016 has ultimately culminated into tangible benefits with systems and facilities in place that are going to lead to better utilization of airport resources, real-time collection of information, improved airport operations and reliable sharing of Air Traffic Services flight messages, among others, as duly highlighted by the Project Manager.

The project commenced after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between KOICA and Government of Uganda in 2015 with a target to enhance safety, improve efficiency and build staff capacity. I can gladly attest that these primary objectives have since been fully realized, and that is why we are here today to celebrate this revolutionary landmark in the history of Uganda's aviation industry.

The ultimate beneficiaries from this US Dollars 9.5 million KOICA grant are the airlines, passengers and all the users of Uganda's air transport system. Despite obvious limitations in relation to availability of resources during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, UCAA was able to maintain the counterpart funding of approximately US Dollars 250,000 (per year) towards implementation of the project. It was a worthwhile investment.

Let me take this opportunity to also inform you about this facility where we are. It is part of the passenger terminal extension project that is internally funded by UCAA to create more room for passengers and create a better passenger experience. Part of the departure area was already opened up for use by passengers, but this particular area has a few components that are yet to be completed before it will be opened up for use by passengers who will be dropped-off by the departure road to access the check-in counters through this area. Work on terminal expansion of the arrivals area also commenced.

Relatedly, having completed the new 100,000 tones capacity cargo centre, cargo operations were shifted from the old facility to the new. The old facility was razed down to pave way for construction of a new terminal building connecting to the current terminal as part of another project for upgrade and expansion of Entebbe International Airport. It is envisaged that on completion of the new terminal and all the on-going works, terminal facilitation capacity will be enhanced from the current 2 million passengers per year to 3.5 million passengers in order to accommodate the rising passenger traffic figures.

Passenger traffic has continued to grow as the aviation industry recovers from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. August 2022 recorded the highest number of passengers since the lockdown, a total of 156,081 international passengers (73,899 arrivals and 82,189 departures), which is an average of 5,034 passengers per day compared to 4,892 in July, 4,508 in June,

about 4,000 in May and April and about 3,600 per day in March and February 2022. The growth in traffic is attributed to a number of factors like the widespread COVID-19 vaccination across the globe, which has led to relaxation of some previously stringent travel requirements, and implementation of confidence building measures by airports, including Entebbe and airlines across the globe.

Hon. Minister,

As I wind up, please permit me to extend the Authority's deepest appreciation to our partners on this project, the Government of Uganda, which facilitated talks with the Republic of Korea, prior to commencement of the project, the Republic of Korea for the grant, and KOICA for their commitment and dedication towards successful implementation and completion of the Automated Infrastructure project.

It is clear that this project has ushered in a new era of enhanced safety and efficient service delivery, which will go a long way in enhancing the image of Entebbe International Airport.

Thank you all for listening.

It is now my pleasure to introduce and invite the Chairman of the UCAA Board of Directors, Hon. Justice Dr. Steven Kavuma to address you.