

Remarks by the Ag. Director General, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, Mr. Fred Bamwesigye at the Handover of Masks to UCAA on March 10, 2021

**The Management of Kapeeka Industries,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Entebbe International Airport on this occasion as we prepare to receive another consignment of COVID-19 preventive equipment from one of our development partners.

The Authority is highly appreciative of this support, which will go a long way in protecting the Frontline workers at Entebbe International Airport.

Entebbe International Airport has been and continues to be key in efforts to prevent the importation and spread of COVID-19 through air transport.

The Standard Operating Procedures in place, which include a requirement for a negative COVID-19 PCR test obtained within 120 hours from time of sample collection to boarding of aircraft leaving country of origin,

have so far proved effective since resumption of commercial passenger operations. The same requirements for a PCR negative COVID-19 test certificate apply on departure.

While in the beginning, especially in October and November 2020, some cases of forgery of COVID-19 PCR test certificates were registered, stringent measures to curb the vice were employed and the vice has since drastically reduced owing to the robust system in place.

Safety of passengers and users of Airport facilities is important, especially now that the passenger figures are starting to steadily increase.

In February 2021, Entebbe International Airport registered an increase in number of daily passengers with an average of 2,194 per day up from 1,868 in January 2021. At the resumption of operations in October 2020, the daily average per month was about 1,600 in October, 1,700 in November and 1,900 in December 2020. The daily average of 2,194 in February 2021 is therefore the highest that the airport has recorded since resumption of commercial passenger operations. While the figure of 2,194 is still low in comparison to the daily average of about 5,400 in 2019 prior to the advent of COVID-19, it is certainly worth clapping about in light of the global situation in the Aviation Industry.

In specific terms, in relation to February 2021, Entebbe recorded 26,904 arriving passengers, 31,084 departing passengers, 3,448 in transit, 1,738 metric tonnes of imports and 3,028 metric tonnes of exports. In January 2021, the airport handled 24,095 arriving passengers, 29,409 departing passengers and 4,279 transit passengers.

The silver lining to the dark cloud lies in the fact that cargo operations from 42,000 metric tonnes of cargo handled at Entebbe International Airport in 2019 to 58,000 metric tonnes of cargo in 2020 inspite of the COVIC-19 pandemic. This is partly because cargo operations were sustained during the lockdown.

Once again, I thank our development partners for coming in with this timely support.