

**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, HON. EDWARD KATUMBA WAMALA AT THE AVIATION WEEK STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT BREAKFAST HELD AT FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOTEL ON TUESDAY 21, JANUARY 2025**

**The Hon. Ministers (Minister of State - Transport and Minister of State -Works),  
Hon. Members of Parliament,  
The Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of UCAA,  
Distinguished stakeholders,  
Ladies & Gentlemen**

I am delighted to engage with the aviation fraternity at this year's Stakeholders' Engagement Breakfast, organized by the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority to share updates on the Authority's 2024 milestones and plans for 2025.

I extend my congratulations to the UCAA team for the outstanding accomplishments highlighted in 2024, as outlined by the Director General. It is crucial to sustain and build on these commendable achievements.

In a special way, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire aviation industry in Uganda for the 81.6% score, an outstanding performance in the Universal Security Audit Program – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA). This reinforces the international community's confidence in Uganda's aviation security systems. The USAP-CMA results provide a strong foundation for international airlines operating in and out of Entebbe International Airport to make informed investment decisions. Failing such an international audit would have had significant repercussions for the country's security and reputation. The fact that Uganda did not register a Significant Security or Safety Concern in two back-to-back international safety and security audits is truly commendable and worth celebrating.

Following the excellent performance in the security audit, UCAA and all aviation industry stakeholders in Uganda must not rest on their laurels, but strive even harder to ensure consistent excellence in facilitating seamless travel through Entebbe International Airport. While safety and security are key in the aviation industry, smooth facilitation of passengers is also paramount and naturally expected.

The Ministry of Works and Transport places great importance to the aviation sub-sector, recognizing its critical role in providing direct international access and promoting tourism, trade, and socio-economic development. We fully support all efforts aimed at enhancing the vibrancy and effectiveness of air transport.

To this end, the Ministry of Works and Transport has taken significant steps towards ensuring having in place additional Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASAs) with other countries to develop a robust air transport network that connects Uganda to major cities worldwide. Currently, Uganda has 58 BASAs with various states, a positive step towards expanding route options.

The most recent BASA was signed with Serbia on October 25, 2024 on the side-lines of the Joint Commission for Trade Cooperation held in Serbia. Earlier on, Uganda signed another BASA with Oman and held discussions with Latvia at the ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN) in Malaysia in October 2024. BASAs are important for the aviation industry because they enhance connectivity, pave the way for commencement of flights between states, and provide a mechanism for air transport regulation.

Uganda's aviation industry is now preparing to host the 48<sup>th</sup> East African Community (EAC) Consultative Facilitation Meeting on Air Transport from 26-28 February 2025, a regional engagement hosted in rotation by EAC states. I urge everyone to play their part in the arrangements to ensure the smooth and seamless facilitation of delegates attending the meeting, and to share knowledge in overcoming related challenges.

I, once again express gratitude to all the industry stakeholders present for honouring the invitation to participate in this important engagement.