



**SPEECH AT THE OFFICIATION OF AIR TANZANIA'S INAUGURAL
CEREMONY AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

BY

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MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

The Chairperson and members of the Board of Air Tanzania,

The CEO of Air Tanzania,

The Chairperson and members of the Board of Civil Aviation
Authority - Uganda,

The Managing Director, Civil Aviation Authority and your staff,

Representatives from Government Agencies Present,

Invited Guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon to you all.

It is a great honor for me to be here today to officiate at the inaugural launch of Air Tanzania in Uganda.

As you all know, Uganda is a non-costal country and the Government of Uganda attaches a lot of importance to the aviation sub-sector because it guarantees the country direct international access thereby promoting trade, tourism and social-economic development.

Government`s aviation strategy is to leverage Uganda`s geographical location to become a regional hub for air transport so that the country can compete successfully for economic growth opportunities.

To achieve this objective, Government of Uganda is undertaking a number of interventions aimed at developing an air transport network that will connect Uganda to all major cities in the world.

To mention a few, Already, Government is implementing a project for the upgrading and expansion of infrastructure and facilities at Entebbe International Airport (worth USD 200million). This is intended to accommodate current and future air traffic and to also make it comply with ICAO safety

requirements. Construction works are on-going and will be completed in FY 2019/20.

Government is also undertaking the development of a second international airport at Kabaale in Hoima district to support the oil and gas sector. Construction works are on-going.

Government is also spearheading the revival of the National Carrier. A private limited company has been formed to manage the National Airline and the Airline will be launched during the course of this Financial Year 2018/19.

There are also plans to improve and upgrade the facilities at the regional and upcountry aerodromes to meet international standards and also open new routes through signing of more Bilateral Air Services Agreements, amongst others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in view of the a foregoing plans to develop Uganda's air transport industry, I wish to say that the decision taken by Air Tanzania to extend its operations to Uganda is timely, and I would like to thank the Management of Air Tanzania for this gesture.

The aviation industry in Uganda is liberalized and growing rapidly and, the entrance of Air Tanzania in the market will greatly improve the efficiency and the cost of air transport services not only in Uganda but in the East African region and beyond so that our people can access affordable air transport services in the region.

Invited Guests, You may wish to note that Air Transport is now recognized as the safest mode of Transport and a key driver of socio-economic development worldwide. The influence of civil aviation on other pertinent sectors like tourism, agriculture and now oil and gas cannot be under estimated. Therefore, today's launch of Air Tanzania means a lot to the future development of our economies in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Air Tanzania was established in 1977 and their operations in Uganda come with lots of experience but also customers' expectations especially with regards to service quality and safety.

I would like to implore the management of Air Tanzania and all industry players to observe with strictness the minimum required standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as we strive to deliver reliable and quality air transport services.

The Government of Uganda is highly committed and will continue to support and provide enabling environment for the growth of the Aviation industry in the country.

To Air Tanzania, our today`s launch is a great symbol of excellent services you have committed to provide to your esteemed clients, and I would like to encourage you on this new journey which you have started. The fact that you have been able to run a state owned Airline on sound commercial principles should be a source of inspiration to the rest of us.

Once again, I congratulate the management and staff of Air Tanzania for working hard to reach this level of success and I wish you a prosperous future.

Thank You and God Bless You all.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.