TOPIC

HANDLING AND CLEARANCE OF DRONES AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PRESENTED

BY

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FORUM OF PRESENTATION

A presentation to key stakeholders' meeting on;

National Guidance Procedures and Regulations for Safer and Secure Importation and Use of Drones in Uganda.

held at Mestil Hotel, Kampala.

on 3rd July 2019.

1. INTRODUCTION

❑ Continuous importation and use of drones may pose a threat to the national security if not regulated.

▪ There is absence of an approved formal regulation.

▪ The Chief of Defense Forces on 20th June 2017 approved a Tripartite Committees' proposal of Adhoc Procedures for the Importation and Usage of Drones.

❑ Drones without relevant clearances are being intercepted at Entebbe International Airport and other entry points

A. AIM

The aim of the presentation is to;

Create stakeholders' awareness on drone handling and clearance at Entebbe International Airport in order to achieve a secure acquisition and usage of drones.

B. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the presentation is to;

Share knowledge on drone clearance procedures and requirements.

C. SCOPE

i.   Definition of drone

ii.   Utilization

iii.   Current situation on drone clearance

iv.   Observations

v.   Challenges faced during drone clearance

vi.   Way forward

vii.   Conclusion

2. DEFINITION

A Drone (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle – UAV) is;

A flying robot that can be remotely controlled or fly autonomously through software-controlled flight plans in their embedded systems, working in conjunction with onboard sensors and Global Positioning System (GPS).

DRONE

3. UTILIZATION

a.   Tourism

b.   Security

c.   Media and information

d.   Agriculture

e. Health and general delivery of goods/equipment

f. Etc.

Utilization in pictures – Deliveries

Pictures cont – Agriculture

Pictures cont - Security

a. Requirement for Importation and Clearance of Drones

Fulfillment of the following requirements;

- The importer is duly cleared to import the drone and presents clearance documents.

- Has paid taxes or has proof of exemption.

B.   PROCEDURES OF DRONE CLEARANCE AT EIA

- ❑ Upon arrival at the airport, drones are declared to customs and security.(invoice, origin and any other accompanying document)

- ▪ Customs deposit notices are issued to the bearer.

- ▪ Bearers/owners are then briefed on the clearance procedures; including;

- ❑ Security authorization from Security Tripartite Committee on   Drones Acquisition and Usage.

PROCEDURES CONT...

❑ URA tax clearance from customs

❑ Operator's License from Civil Aviation Authority (at usage/operation level).

Authorization documents are then submitted to CAA through Liaison Officer UPDF Air Force.

❑ Customs is then given a go-ahead to clear and release the drone to the owner as follows.

- Temporary drone imports are reconciled and released to owners.

- Drones imported by non-tax exempted importers are released after tax clearance.

- ❏ If authorization is denied, customs retains the drones to be re-exported back to country of origin. The bearers presents original deposit slip/boarding pass upon which a drone is released and the person escorted by customs/security to departure point.

C. STATUS OF DRONE CLEARANCE IN FY 2018/2019

S/No.	Category	Units
1.	Cleared drones	191
2.	Un-cleared Drones in customs' stores	251
Total		**442**

5. OBSERVATIONS

❑ There is a noticeable increase in the importation of drones from 2017 to 2019 (an average of four drones per day), a trend which is expect to continue.

❑ Drone importation and usage could have negative security implications if proper monitoring and control measures are not put in place.

❑ Drones are mainly imported into the country by tourists, event/entertainment companies and families (toy drones).

❑ Many drones remain un-cleared in stores due to limited public knowledge on clearance procedures, which could impact negatively on especially tourism.

6. CHALLENGES

❑ Absence of legislation on importation and usage of drones.

❑ Handling of transit drones through both land and air routes due to absence of monitoring mechanisms to oversee their exit and structural challenges at the airport for transit passengers (absence of transit lounge at EIA for air transit passengers).

❑ Inadequate public awareness

❑ Inadequate storage facilities for un-cleared drones at EIA and customs.

7. WAY FORWARD

❑ Legislation on drone importation and usage should be fast tracked.

❑ Increase in public awareness/training through multiple media channels, i.e. social, print, electronic media and websites of for example; Airline Operators, Immigration, Civil Aviation Authority, Uganda Tourism Board, Customs, UCC and Ministry of Information and Communication Technology etc.

WAY FORWARD CONT..

❑ Provision of facility (transit passenger lounge) for managing transit passengers.

❑ Un-cleared drone storage challenges are expected to reduce once legislation and public awareness challenges are solved.

8. CONCLUSION

Utilization of drones as one of the modern ICT equipment in the ever changing technological environment has wide operational purposes and applications which should be adopted and managed consciously by all stakeholders in order to avoid adverse social and security implications.

END

Thank You All