**REMARKS BY THE UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY’S DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. FRED K. BAMWESIGYE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO SHOWCASE ON-GOING WORKS AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024**

**The Management of UCAA,**

**Members of the Press,**

**Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Entebbe International Airport to provide an update on developments in the industry.

As you may all be aware, the Authority completed the Modified Terminal building and opened it to the public on January 10, 2024. The facility ably facilitated delegates to the NAM/G77+ China Summit and continues to facilitate arriving and departing passengers in a bigger and more ambient environment.

Earlier on, the car parking was resurfaced and completed in March 2023. As part of the project for upgrade and expansion of Entebbe International Airport, the major remaining project is the completion of a new 20,000 square meters terminal building, which is connecting to the existing terminal building. Overall, the project works are at 90% level of completion. The other pending works include expansion of Apron 1, which is at 95% level of completion.

Other earlier completed works under the same project, include resurfacing of runways 17/35 and 12/30 plus their associated taxiways, construction of a new 100,000 tones capacity terminal building, erection of the Cargo Apron and resurfacing of Aprons 2 and 4.

On completion of the new terminal building, whose works are expected to be completed in 2024, the terminal capacity will be enhanced from the previous maximum capacity of 2 million passengers a year to at least 3.5 million passengers. This is to address the growing traffic. For instance, in March, 2024, Entebbe International Airport handled 80,719 arriving and 91,271 departing passengers, a total of 171,990 international passengers, an average of 5,548 passengers per day.

This comes on the heels of increased traffic, averaging over 6,000 passengers per month in the previous three months; specifically, 6,418 passengers per day were handled in December 2023, 6,329 per day in January 2024 and 6,116 passengers per day in February 2024. 2023 recorded a total of 1.93 million passengers in comparison to the pre-COVID 19 pandemic figure of 1.8 million passengers in 2019. The new facilities and on-going projects are meant to address the growing traffic.

It ought to be noted that earlier this month, Entebbe experienced a heavy downpour on Saturday, April 6, 2024, which overwhelmed the drainage system, causing backflow in some parts of the car parking area and the photos, unfortunately went viral, creating the wrong impression that the situation lasted for a big part of the day, yet the water drained within 30-45 minutes.

It is pertinent to note that on that particular day, the Uganda National Meteorological Authority issued a report indicating that Entebbe received rain up to 106.8 mm, the highest maximum fall recorded in a single day. Nevertheless, it is also important to note that some of the existing structures at Entebbe International Airport were first put up in the 70s, and more buildings have been added as part of the infrastructure upgrade. The on-going construction of the new terminal building has a component for interconnection of the drainage system to accommodate the new developments, and all these pending works are scheduled for completion this year. The public is urged to bear with the temporary inconvenience as mitigation measures and all the projects are being finalized for a better passenger experience.

Members of the public are also requested to be more patriotic and not pride in massively sharing images of that nature, which negatively impacts tourism