**TALKING POINTS FOR THE UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. FRED K. BAMWESIGYE, AT THE COMMISSIONING OF NEW FIRE TRUCKS AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON**

**The Minister of Works and Transport**

**Management of UCAA**

**Members of the press**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Entebbe International Airport this morning.

I am pleased to inform you that the Authority recently acquired two 2 new state-of-the-art major foam tenders that the Minister of Works and Transport is going to commission. The Falcon 6x6 specialized Chassis fire trucks were supplied by the East African Distributors Ltd of the Madhvani group, who are the sole distributors of NAFFCO products in Uganda.

A total of 72 Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting staff recently undertook a two weeks course in driving, operation and maintenance of the 2 new foam tenders. The comprehensive training equipped them with skills to drive, operate and maintain the trucks.

The aviation industry in Uganda is experiencing tremendous growth, which is reflected in the increasing number of aircraft movements and passengers hence the need to enhance professional skills for manpower that can handle emergencies.

As the industry grows with advances in technology, firefighting and rescue operations become more complicated and challenging, thus the need to train and equip personnel with the knowledge and skills to match with the emerging technologies in fire and marine operations in order to ably handle such challenges once they occur at the airport.

The Authority will continue to invest in research, equipment and staff training to meet with the required safety, security, response timelines and Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as stipulated by the International Civil Organization (ICAO).

UCAA has previously acquired new fire-fighting boats and other equipment, and regularly trained and equipped staff with skills in water fire-fighting and rescue missions. The airport is currently equipped with the required professional personnel and modern equipment to respond to any emergency.

Hon. Minister, we have also made tremendous progress with the project for upgrade and expansion of Entebbe International Airport, which is currently standing at … percent, overall. In specific terms, the new terminal building, which is the major pending sub component of the project is at … percent and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

It is now my pleasure and honor to invite you to address the media before we proceed to the new Fire Station to commission the equipment.