



Travellers queue at the modified departure Immigration counters

Entebbe International airport expansion works on course

OUR REPORTER

In a bid to meet the demand posed by the growing passenger numbers at Entebbe International Airport, the departure Immigration counters have recently been modified by China Nanjing International Limited and their number increased from six to eleven.

Vianney Luggya, the manager, Public Affairs at Civil Aviation Authority, told *The Observer* two booths with four counters and another booth with three counters were successfully installed in August to accommodate a total of 11 Immigration officers. The queuing space, he said, which was originally 101 square metres is now 209 square metres; meaning it was doubled.

Earlier on in 2017, the same contractor modified the arrivals Immigration counters and their number was increased from 14 to 20. This has since enhanced efficiency in service provision and drastically reduced on long queues at peak time. In the Arrivals Hall, one of the counters has been specifically dedicated to handling passengers with special needs, crew, business and first-class passengers.

Luggya guided *The Observer* on a tour of Entebbe International Airport which is currently undergoing infrastructural upgrade and expansion of a number of facilities. He explained that the ongoing works are part of Civil Aviation



The chairman of CAA Board of Directors, Eng. Edward Mike Ndawula (C) with board members Dr Asimwe Rwekikiga (fourth L), Mr Enock Rukidi (third L) and Eng. Mackenzie Ogweng (second L), plus CAA management and contractors on the surface of the old runway 12/30 that is being rehabilitated and strengthened by China Communications Construction Company

Authority's (CAA) implementation of a 20-year master plan which covers the period from 2014 to 2033. In the first five years of the project, a number of projects have already been undertaken. The expansion projects follow a study in both the passenger and cargo growth trends at the airport.

Works for rehabilitation and strengthening of the old runway 12/30 commenced in May 2018 and are expected to be completed by the end

of 2018.

The works are undertaken by China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), which is also handling the ongoing construction of a new 100,000-tonne capacity Cargo Centre.

Some 80% of works for the new Cargo Centre's Aircraft Parking Apron have been accomplished, 35% of works

for the Cargo Terminal building are complete, and 90% of works for the Landside and Airside Access roads have so far been accomplished. Expansion works for Aircraft Parking Apron 1 are at 70% and extension works for Taxiway Alpha are at 70% level of completion. Runway 12/30 rehabilitation is at 30%.

Works for modification and expansion of the passenger terminal building are also ongoing and are at 30% level of completion. They are being undertaken by Seyani Brothers (U) Ltd.

Phase two of the expansion of the long-term vehicle parking was completed earlier on and it involved creation of additional capacity to park 140 vehicles to increase the total Long Term Vehicle parking capacity from 260 to 410 vehicles. The work was undertaken by Energo Uganda Co. Ltd.

The Air Traffic services management system and Air Traffic Control radar were upgraded and this led to migration from use of manual to automated electronic strips. It also extended the ATC radar's serviceability lifespan by another ten years.

In regard to advancement of technology to suit the current trends, automation of the Aeronautical Information Management System at Entebbe International Airport was enhanced. This has increased efficiency through saving time, reduction in costs incurred by air operators and ability for pilots to file flight plans from anywhere using any web-enabled device.

Luggya hails the improvement of the air navigation services and automation of Entebbe International Airport by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as part of a \$9.5 million grant to Uganda from the Government of South Korea.

In summary, the entire project involves:

- Implementation of Air Traffic Services (ATS) Message Handling System.
- A computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) and Airport Operational Database (AODB) system.
- Improvement of Flight Procedures efficiency through air traffic management.

The three-year project commenced in March 2016 and Uganda has on its part come up with counterpart funding of approximately \$250,000 (per year) towards implementation of the project that is expected to be fully delivered by the end of 2018

A new Terminal Operations Control Centre has already been put in place at Entebbe International Airport and a training facility fully equipped at the CAA head office.



The long-term vehicle parking space has increased from 260 to 410 parking lots

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The Terminal Operation Control Centre installed at Entebbe International Airport as part of the KOICA projects