

REMARKS BY THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY MANAGING DIRECTOR, DR. DAVID M. KAKUBA DELIVERED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR AIRPORTS AND AVIATION SECURITY, ENG. AYUB SOOMA AT THE LAUNCH OF AIR TANZANIA OPERATIONS AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON 26TH AUGUST, 2018.

**The Hon. Minister of Works and transport,
The Tanzania High Commissioner to Uganda,
The Management of Air Tanzania,
Industry Stakeholders,
Members of the Fourth Estate,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour and pleasure for me to join you on this landmark occasion that marks the resumption of Air Tanzania operations in and out of Entebbe International Airport. I congratulate the Management and Staff of Air Tanzania upon this important milestone.

The decision by Air Tanzania to resume flights on the Dar-es Salaam-Entebbe route is commendable and a positive sign of growth of the air transport business in Uganda and a vote of confidence in the air transport industry in Uganda and the economy in general. Uganda is now part of Air Tanzania's wide network within the East African region. More Ugandans will now be able to travel to Tanzania conveniently through direct flights at competitive prices, which will promote our peoples' culture, tourism and business between the two countries.

This new business relationship is testimony of the cordial and mutually beneficial relations that exist between the people of Tanzania and Uganda. This kind of business cooperation should continue.

In an effort to promote air transport development, Uganda embraced the liberalization of air transport within the region in line with the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD). This has included Multiple Designation; implying designating more than one airline on a route(s) and removal of frequency and capacity limitations, which implies that the designated airlines can operate as many times as they wish.

Air Tanzania is a beneficiary of the multiple designation policy as there is already another Tanzania operator (Precision Air) on the route. That the new airline is commencing operations with four flights a week using a Q400, 76 seater aircraft is commendable.

Air traffic at Entebbe International Airport has been steadily growing over the years. The Airport has recorded steady passenger traffic over the years with 1.62 million international and transit passengers in 2017 up from a paltry 118,527 at CAA's establishment in 1991. On its part, cargo traffic grew from 66,000 metric tones in 1991 to 69,000 metric tones in 2017. With more operators including Air Tanzania joining Uganda's airspace, we are optimistic that the number of passengers and cargo traffic will continue to grow.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to assure you that CAA is committed to supporting initiatives aimed at providing various options to facilitate travel in and out of this country.

In order to harness the full potential and economic benefits of civil aviation to our economy, CAA has put emphasis on ensuring better passenger facilitation through addressing stakeholder needs and expectations for a memorable experience through Entebbe International Airport. We are increasingly modernizing facilities at the airport in order to meet future demands of existing and future potential operators as well as users of the facilities.

The coming on board of Air Tanzania is a timely and much needed development considering the need for faster connections between Uganda, Tanzania and in the region.

You may recall that CAA developed a 20-year National Civil Aviation Master Plan (2014-2033) that is in line with Uganda's Vision 2040. The Master Plan is currently being implemented through construction of a modern 100,000 tonnes capacity Cargo Centre, expansion of the Aircraft Parking Apron, strengthening and rehabilitation of runway 12/30, and work on the taxiways, among other on-going and future projects as part of a 200 million US Dollar project for upgrade and expansion of Entebbe International Airport by China Communications Construction Company (CCCC). Some projects such as the on-going expansion of the passenger terminal building and the just completed re-modification of the Departure Immigration Counters to increase their number from 6 to 11 are undertaken from internally generated revenue.

The infrastructural upgrade projects are aimed at ensuring that the existing and new air operators can enjoy world class services and facilities.

There is also on-going automation of systems at Entebbe International Airport as part of a US Dollars 9.5 Million grant from the Government of Korea through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). A Terminal Operations Control Centre and training facility have already been erected as part of this project, which will also deliver a Computerised Maintenance Management System and Air Traffic Message Handling System, among others.

All these and other on-going works are aimed at ensuring that air operators like Air Tanzania enjoy a pleasant and memorable experience at Entebbe International Airport.

I reiterate CAA gratitude to Air Tanzania for joining Uganda's airspace to enhance competition in the country's aviation industry, which usually leads to economies of scale and efficiency.

I once again congratulate the United Republic of Tanzania upon the revival of the country's national airline and Air Tanzania for the commendable decision to return to Entebbe. I assure Air Tanzania and all the other air operators in Uganda of our firm support and co-operation.

Thank you for listening.