

REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR AIRPORTS AND AVIATION SECURITY, ENG. SOOMA AYUBON BEHALF OF THE AG. DIRECTOR GENERAL, UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (UCAA), AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF COVID-19 SAFETY EQUIPMENT BY THE KOREA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AGENCY AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OCTOBER 21, 2020

**The Deputy Country Director of KOICA,
UCAA Management and staff present,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you all to Entebbe International Airport (EIA) a few weeks after commencement of commercial passenger operations, which resumed on October 1, 2020.

As you may all be aware, the COVID-19 pandemic had a tremendous impact on aviation and all other sectors that depend on aviation like tourism, trade and agriculture thereby impacting on the social and economic development of countries.

Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) warmly welcomes the support extended by KOICA to the Airport to help support efforts aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 through air transport.

The personal protective equipment received today will be put to proper use at Entebbe International Airport, especially now that passenger operations are on-going.

The equipment will go a long way in ensuring safety of passengers and front line airport staff. We highly appreciate this gesture.

It is important to note that a number of interventions are being under taken by the Government of Uganda and are being implemented by UCAA to provide a conducive environment for the users of Entebbe International Airport.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Besides this generous contribution the Authority is receiving today, KOICA partnered with UCAA in 2018 to modernize aeronautical infrastructure in the country. There is an on-going automation of systems at Entebbe International Airport as part of a US Dollars 9.5 Million grant from the Government of Korea. A Terminal Operations Control Centre and training facility have already been erected as part of this project, which will also deliver a Computerized Maintenance Management System and an Air Traffic Message Handling System, among others as has been highlighted in detail by the Project Manager, the Director Air Navigation Services of UCAA.

UCAA has in conjunction with airport stakeholders also put in place a number of other interventions to address the challenges

occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic on air travel. Such interventions include;

- Installation of automated sanitizers at various points within the terminal building.
- Social distancing marks on the ground and on passenger waiting seats within the lounges.
- Erection of glass shields at Immigration and check in counters to avoid direct interface of staff with the passengers.
- Emphasis has been placed on wearing of face masks at the airport and it is part of the Standard Operating Procedures.
- Temperature screening is emphasized at all points of entry to the airport.
- There are ongoing efforts to create more space in the waiting lounges by removing the partitions to create open lounges that accord more space for social distancing. This is about to be completed.

The received support from KOICA will largely complement these efforts that are already in place.

I once again thank KOICA for the donation, which is a demonstration of the mutual and beneficial relationship that exists between the Governments and people of Uganda and KOICA.

Thank you and God bless you all.