

DRAFT REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS & TRANSPORT, HON. GEN. EDWARD KATUMBA WAMALA AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE CIVIL – MILITARY AVIATION POLICY BOARD AT THE MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT ON AUGUST 17, 2023

**The Permanent Secretary, MOW&T
Nominated members of the Civil-Military Aviation Board,
The Management of Uganda Civil Aviation Authority,
Aviation Industry Stakeholders,
Members of the Press,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Ministry of Works and Transport at this important occasion at which we are going to inaugurate the Civil – Military Aviation Policy Board.

I thank all the stakeholders for promptly responding to this national cause. I, first of all, commend the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) and Uganda Civil Aviation Authority for having maintained cordial and mutually beneficial relations in coordinating Civil- Military issues in Air traffic Management over the years, even before formal inauguration of the Civil-Military Aviation Policy Board.

It is important to note that, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a United Nations agency, established to help countries share airspaces for mutual benefit. ICAO assists Contracting States to adopt standards, practices, and policies for international civilian flight, and also encourages member States to ensure safety of operation of civil aircraft alongside state aircraft. This is in line with ICAO's Strategic objectives of Safety, Capacity and efficiency, Security, Economic development, and Environmental protection.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Civil Military cooperation significantly contributes to these strategic objectives. Harmonization of activities between the civil and military aviation authorities will enhance safety of aircraft operations, increase capacity, reduce flight times and efficiency of flight operations. This will ultimately make Uganda's airspace more attractive to operators.

It is worth noting that Civil Military cooperation and coordination is an essential component of effective governance, economic prosperity and national security. The collaboration between civilian authorities and the military ensures that resources are optimized, and efforts are streamlined to address various challenges and crises. Achieving a strong and cooperative relationship between the civil and the military requires a clear roadmap of implementation.

Instituting the Civil- Military Aviation Policy Board (CMAB) is a strong statement and a step in the right direction towards realization of these benefits and compliance with the latest international provisions in this regard.

Government will continue to ensure existence of a conducive environment that has made it possible for flight safety within the Ugandan airspace.

The Civil-Military Aviation Policy Board, which I am going to inaugurate is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that civil-military cooperation policies are facilitated and implemented at all levels of the respective authorities. It shall monitor and coordinate civil and military aviation activities, provide policy direction, allocate resources, and ensure the State's high-level aviation policies and strategies are implemented in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices.

I have tasked the Board to immediately constitute three technical Committees; **the Committee on Airspace Organisation and Management, the Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Interoperability and the Committee on Legal Affairs**. This is in accordance with ICAO provisions.

The primary objectives of the civil-military cooperation is to ensure enhanced safety measures by fostering cooperation, collaboration and information sharing. The Board will also ensure streamlined Air Traffic Management, compliance with ICAO guidelines and enhancement of national aviation security.

I, therefore, take this to opportunity to present and appoint the following as Members of Civil Military Aviation Policy Board (CMAB):

1. **Mr. Fred K. Bamwesigye** - Director General, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority – Co-chair
2. **Lt. Gen. Charles Okidi** - Commander, Uganda People's Defense Airforce - Co-chair
3. **Brig. Gen Stephen Kigundu** - Deputy Commander, Uganda People's Defense Airforce

4. **Ms. Olive Birungi Lumonya** - Deputy Director General, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority
5. **Brig Gen David Mugisha** - Commander, Special Forces Command
6. **Mr. Richard M. Ruhesi** - Director Air Navigation Services, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (Secretary)
7. **Col. Paul Namawa** - Director Operations, Special Forces Command
8. **Eng. Ronny Barongo** - Director Safety, Security and Economic Regulation, UCAA
9. **Eng. Sooma Ayub** - Director Airports and Aviation Security, Uganda Civil Aviation Authority

DECLARATION:

I now take this opportunity and declare the Civil Military Aviation Policy Board inaugurated.

Please commence business immediately and appoint members to the three committees on Airspace Organisation and Management, the Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Interoperability and the Committee on Legal Affairs

Thank you.