**REMARKS BY THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, UCAA DURING THE 51ST UCAA BOARD AIR SERVICES LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING AT PROTEA HOTEL, KAMPALA, ON 06 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA), under Section 6 (2) of the CAA Act Cap. 354 as amended is responsible for the licensing of air transport services. In addition, the Authority advises the Government of the Republic of Uganda on matters relating to the development of air services such as Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASAs) and other air transport activities.

Today, before the UCAA Board, there four (04) applications (03 renewals and 01 new) being presented for consideration namely, Misk Air Limited, Air Serv Limited, Premier Services East Africa Limited and Arasus Aviation Limited.

In compliance with the Civil Aviation (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations 2001, the applications were advertised in the print media and the public was invited to attend the public hearing meeting in respect of the air services under consideration.

Currently, there are twenty-six (26) Ugandan licensed air operators offering the following air services; scheduled passenger and/or cargo, non-scheduled passenger and/or cargo, Private, Training and Aerial Works.

With regard to scheduled international air services:

* Uganda has concluded Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASAs) with fifty-six (56) Countries.
* Sixteen (16) Airlines operate international scheduled services to and from Entebbe International Airport in accordance with the provisions of the BASAs concluded between Uganda and the respective Countries.
* Uganda Airlines operates to thirteen (13) destinations namely: Dubai, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Mombasa, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro, Juba, Bujumbura, Kinshasa, Mogadishu, Lagos and Mumbai.
* Uganda Airlines intends to commence scheduled operations to Harare, Lusaka and Abuja in this month of September 2024.

The Authority therefore encourages Ugandan licenced air operators serving domestic and international routes to synergize through airline cooperative arrangements like codeshare agreements and interlining with Uganda Airlines and other international air operators in order to increase air connectivity and stimulate the growth of air passenger and cargo traffic in Uganda.

Uganda Civil Aviation Authority wishes to reiterate its commitment to the growth and development of the aviation industry in Uganda.