**TALKING POINTS FOR THE UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. FRED K. BAMWESIGYE AT THE LAUNCH OF UGANDA AIRLINES FLIGHTS TO ABUJA ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

**The Minister of Works and Transport,**

**The Board and Management of Uganda Airlines,**

**Distinguished guests**

**Members of the press**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to address you on a day when we celebrate the national carrier’s adding of another route to its ever-growing route network. This is a significant milestone in the growth of Uganda’s air transport system.

I hereby congratulate and commend the airline’s Management on making tremendous progress in efforts to expand the route network, thereby opening up more opportunities for Ugandans and all the users of the air transport system in Africa.

The people of Uganda and Nigeria have over the years enjoyed cordial and mutually beneficial relations, which will be further enhanced and cemented by the flights between Entebbe and Abuja, on top of the already existing Entebbe-Lagos flights. This will further foster trade and business between the two countries and the entire region.

Uganda Civil Aviation Authority has provided support to the airline through out the process and will continue to render the necessary support to enable realization of all the other plans in relation to other destinations while ensuring compliance and adherence to the highest standards of safety, security and service in civil aviation.

The new route will no doubt enhance connectivity and provide more options and convenience for passengers to West Africa.

Whenever more routes are added to the existing, it leads to more passengers in and out of the country, which contributes to national development. Passenger traffic in and out of Entebbe International Airport has been steadily growing over the years.

The latest statistics indicate that Entebbe facilitated a record total of 212,701 international passengers in August 2024, an average of 6,861 passengers per day, one of the highest figures in the history of the airport. Of these, 108,055 were departing and 104,646 were arriving passengers. Uganda Airlines certainly contributed to this traffic and will continue to do so through this, and other additional routes planned.

**Hon. Minister,**

The continued growth of passenger traffic is what inspires us to continue expanding facilities at Entebbe International Airport. While we are already utilizing the expanded terminal, which was opened to the public in January 2024, a new terminal building is currently being constructed to connect to the current terminal. On completion in early 2025, terminal capacity will be enhanced from the current maximum of 2 million passengers a year to at least 3.5 million passengers.

I once again congratulate the airline and all the industry stakeholders.