

... said the measures do not made at Lutunku Community ... transformation of their lives. ... school enrolment so that the P.7 school dropouts are not left pledged two vehicles to the school to ease transport be posted to the school to enhance capacity.

Govt drafts aviation law to make airspace more secure

By Moses Mulondo

The Government has drafted a Bill to amend the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Act to adopt international standards for ensuring the safety of the country's airspace.

Transport minister Azuba Ntege told *New Vision* yesterday that the country would lose if Parliament does not expeditiously pass the Bill.

"The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requires us to put some safety measures and structures which necessitate amending the law. If we do not comply, our airspace will be declared unsafe and that will stop some airlines from coming to Uganda and that would make us lose a lot of money," the minister explained.

ICAO is entrusted with the responsibility of developing standards for regulating international aviation.

The organisation conducts audits in all member states to establish the state's status and compliance with the standards and recommended practices.

An audit done by ICAO in June 2014

Entebbe International Airport. An audit done by ICAO in June 2014 ranked Uganda's compliance at 64%



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The Government wants to raise compliance to at least 75%, which necessitates reforms in the aviation law.

The object of the Bill is to give the Civil Aviation Authority more power and empower the director to take specific actions, provide for the establishment of an independent

accident and incident investigation and for other related safety measures.

Clause 17 of the Bill seeks to give inspectors unhindered access to aerodromes, land or areas outside the aerodromes.

Clause 10 seeks to expand the duties of the CAA director general to include issuing interim regulatory directives and making safety decisions.

The Bill also seeks to empower CAA to certify aircrafts, their airworthiness, certification of air navigation service provider and submitting quarterly performance reports to the minister for works and transport.

The Bill, which was recently presented to Parliament, will soon be analysed by the physical infrastructure committee.

The committee chairperson, Lillian Nakate (Luwero Woman MP), said the Bill is important and that as members on the committee, they would give it their best.

"Members have already started studying the Bill, to prepare their input. As soon as we have completed the Standard Gauge Railway report, we shall embark on that Bill," Nakate promised.

Revival of national airline

Azuba revealed that her ministry is in advanced stages of reviving the national carrier.

"Both Cabinet and Parliament have already approved the proposal to revive the national carrier. A feasibility study was done and found it to be viable," the minister said.

Asked to specify the timeline for turning the proposal into a reality, the minister explained that by the end of this year, they would have finalised establishing the company which will run the airline, which is expected to begin working before the end of next year.