

Russia to supply aviation equipment to Uganda

By David Lumu

Russia has agreed to supply aviation equipment to beef up the development of Uganda's aviation industry.

The Russian pledge comes at a time when the country has finalised plans to re-launch Uganda Airlines this year.

Russia made the pledge during a bilateral meeting with the Uganda delegation last week in Moscow.

The Ugandan delegation to Moscow was led by Okello Oryem, the state minister for international relations, while Alexey Volin, the deputy minister of telecom and mass communications, led the Russian team in the talks.

Specialised equipment

According to a communiqué released by the foreign ministries of both countries, Russian aviation teams will work closely with Uganda to ensure that specialised equipment is supplied as the country awaits the revival of Uganda Airlines.

"The parties commended the beginning of practical co-operation



Ground handling services workers at Entebbe International Airport

regarding the possible supply of Russian civil aviation equipment to the Republic of Uganda and are ready to assist stakeholder organisations," the communiqué noted.

The three-day meeting sessions in Moscow started on Wednesday last

week.

The Government has already procured six passenger aircraft for Uganda Airlines from Canada, Germany and France.

Regional flights for Uganda Airlines will commence by November, while

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international flights will start in the next two years.

Cabinet has already approved the registration of Uganda Airlines and appointed a board to manage the airline.

Nuclear deal

Uganda and Russian diplomats have also held talks on nuclear energy and joint security co-operation to enable Russian nuclear experts support Uganda develop atomic energy for "peaceful purposes".

"The parties welcome the initiative of the State Atomic Energy Co-operation Rosatom and the energy ministry of the Republic of Uganda to accomplish the consideration of

the draft agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uganda on co-operation in the field of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes within a mutually acceptable period of time," a joint communiqué between Russia and Uganda officials noted.

The meeting was a follow-up of the previous engagements on the joint development of atomic energy, which took place in June last year.

On co-operation in the security sector, Russia agreed to help Uganda in equipping its borders with high-end facilities, supply equipment to ensure security at the strategic facilities such as Entebbe International Airport, power plants and also supply encryption technology to ensure safety of information transmission in Uganda.

Equipping the Uganda Police is the other initiative Russians have pledged to undertake.

JSCODK, a Russian state energy company, will also supply energy and gas pumping equipment to Uganda.