High-flying airline CEO runs out of runway

Career crash-lands: Ms Jennifer Bamuturaki has called time on a turbulent four-year tenure at the helm of Uganda Airlines, the national carrier plagued by losses, among other challenges.

BY BUSEIN SAMILU & DOROTHY NAKAWEESI

Ms Jennifer Bamuturaki and Uganda Airlines have parted ways. But Ms Bamuturaki's journey out of the national carrier's top managerial seat was expected like a delayed flight. Why? Because it began the day she was appointed amid queries over the appointment criteria and a mongrel of issues bringing down the airlines since inception.

Ms Bamuturaki, who on July 5, 2022, was confirmed as the chief executive officer of Uganda Airlines after serving in an acting capacity for several months, on Monday this week threw in the towel in a leaked internal email, in which she encouraged her colleagues to apply and replace her upon seeing an advert.

She said: "The Board will advertise the position of chief executive officer shortly, and you are all encouraged to apply if you meet the required qualifications. The job description and application form will be published on the website."

Curiously, the email could be interpreted that she fired herself. It wasn't from the board or any higher hierarchy in the airlines. Mr Waisswa Bageya, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Transport, under which the airline directly falls, said: "That was not part of her role (sending a notification about the position)."

He said Ms Bamuturaki's contract, which was last year granted one-year extension, was bound to expire this July.

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Outgoing Uganda Airlines CEO Jennifer Bamuturaki. PHOTO/ FILE

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