

CAA upset over Uganda's negative air safety rating

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KAMPALA. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has rejected a critical United Nations report on safety standards.

CAA officials have condemned the latest UN report on aviation safety claiming it is a distortion of facts about Uganda's aviation sector and insisted that the country met effective implementation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) safety standards.

Questioning the veracity of ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM), an audit carried out in June 2014, CAA's acting public affairs manager, Mr Vianney Luggya, explained that Uganda's score of 61.64 per cent of the 2014 audit, was "way above" the African States average of 44.86 per cent and the EAC partner states average of 48.17 per cent.

"There was no Significant Safety Concern (SSC) registered in relation to the audit on Uganda," Mr Luggya said in a statement released yesterday.

"It's wrong and misleading to sim-

ply look at excerpts of a report and suggest that Uganda does not meet effective implementation of safety standards," he added.

A Significant Safety Concern refers to serious breach of safety standards and can ultimately lead to several airlines shunning the airspace of that particular country.

CAA is the government agency responsible for licensing, monitoring, and regulating civil aviation matters. It is administered by the Ministry of Works and Transport.

However, the 2017 report of a specialised agency of the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) raises a red flag over the safety of Uganda's air transport system.

The UN agency was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. ICAO sets the standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and environmental protection on a global basis. It serves as the primary forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 member states.

But the UN latest report shows that Uganda is not among the countries which met the effective implementation (EI) above the global average of 64.7 per cent as of May 2017.

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The only African countries that meet the global average under Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) included: Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia.

According to the report posted on the ICAO website, Uganda which belongs to the Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) does not meet the global average.

The report covering the period between 2012 and May 2017, aims at capacity building and implementa-

tion support necessary to address emerging safety issues in the aviation industry.

Although Uganda did not meet safety standards, the UN report, indicates that the RASG countries including Uganda did not have any safety-related fatal accidents last year.

"The reduction in the accident rate from 2.8 to 2.1 accidents per million departures represents the lowest rate ever. It is noteworthy that the Africa-Indian Ocean (RASG-AFI) region did not have any safety-related fatal accidents in 2016," the report reads in part.

According to Mr Luggya, Uganda was last audited three years ago and that a lot has been accomplished and several milestones reached in the areas of safety compliance. He said this would in effect positively improve on the country's performance if ICAO was to review Uganda's status of Effective Implementation in 2017.

CAA insists that the country has over the years promulgated a number of safety regulations and various steps taken towards amendment of the CAA Act, which has already been before Parliament.

intention of collected prices from motorists

But some of the affected officers told Daily Monitor that

involved of traffic duties have been sent to the field force

