

International Aviation Week

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Working together to ensure no country is left behind

Aviation industry makes strides

Discount. According to Transport minister Monica Azuba, any airline that operates scheduled services at Entebbe International Airport at a frequency equal or greater than seven flights a week, receives 50 per cent discount on landing fees and air navigation charges for one flight.

BY JOSEPH KATO
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Works and Transport minister Monica Azuba has said Uganda's aviation industry is currently registering remarkable growth and earns international respect.

She says the country's aviation sector has registered a number of achievements locally and internationally, including promoting tourism, trade and creating employment opportunities.

"We have done a lot to upgrade our airport. For example, we have improved security and the new traffic management systems to ensure that passengers are safe," Ms Azuba says.

She says the new technologies for luggage clearing has reduced the time that passengers used to spend while waiting for clearing. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), according to Ms Azuba, adopted modern technologies such as the aeronautical information management processes at Entebbe International Airport (EIA) intended to enable automated management of flight plans, notices to airmen and electronic aeronautical information publications.

"The new system has led to efficiency and reduction in costs incurred by air operators. Pilots and other airspace users enjoy the convenience to perform flight planning and self-briefing using any web enabled device as all products and services provided by Aeronautical Information Service (AIS) can now be accessed online," she says.

The minister attributes the success to the vibrant and effective departments that have improved in managing flights and cargo at EIA. CAA has several directorates that perform different duties to ensure easy movement of passengers and cargo as per the international aviation standards.

The directorates include the Safety, Security and Economic Regulation whose overall function is to ensure safety and security of the aviation industry and compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

Mr Vianney Luggya, the CAA public relations manager, says the



Entebbe International Airport is currently undergoing upgrade and expansion in order to cope with the growing demands of the aviation industry. PHOTO BY DOMINIC BUKENYA

most recent development at EIA is the modification of the immigration booths at the arrival section.

He says there is an increase of the number of counters from 14 to 20 in order to enhance efficiency and reduce queues.

"Some of the new immigration booths installed are each manned by four people and others three instead of two, which was the case with the old that have been replaced. The development has enhanced efficiency and the speed of facilitating arriving passengers," Mr Luggya says.

CAA has also introduced a first tracking lane by dedicating one of the counters to specifically cater for passengers with special needs, first class and business class, crew and the like. The next step is now to modify the immigration counters on departure to increase their number and further enhance service delivery.

Ongoing expansion

Mr Luggya says the ongoing expansions of EIA include landslide expansion of the passenger terminal. The existing passenger terminal building was opened in 1974 for peak hour traffic of 250 arriving and 250 departing passengers. The terminal was renovated during the preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2007, elevating it to the current capacity of 410 arriving and 360 departing passengers.

The master plan projects 930 arriving passengers and 820 departing passengers during peak hours, by 2033.

Cargo centre

Currently, 26 per cent of works for the overall upgrade and expansion of EIA have been completed. These works entail a self-contained

100,000 tones cargo centre with a parking apron, landside and airside access roads and cooling facilities.

He says the Air Traffic Services Management System and Air Traffic Control Radar (ATCR) at EIA

have been upgraded, something that has led to migration from use of manual to automated electronic strips. The ATCR can now integrate with next generation technologies, can use data links with the automatic dependency surveillance broadcast in line with the ICAO aviation system block upgrades.

"The upgrade has subsequently increased the safety nets from four to more than 10 and given the radar an extended lifespan of another 10 years. In addition, the Doppler Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Range (DVOR) for Entebbe was also upgraded to enhance safety and efficiency in air navigation service provision," Mr Luggya adds.

In liaison with regional experts in the aviation industry, CAA has implemented technologies to address safety, capacity, efficiency and environmental requirements as per the ICAO global aviation plans in air navigation and safety.

KEY ISSUES

Mr Stephen Asiimwe, the executive director of Uganda Tourism Board recently told *Daily Monitor*, that tourism industry was earning more than Shs2 trillion of which most of the foreign tourists come through Entebbe International Airport.

In liaison with regional experts in the aviation industry, Mr Luggya says CAA has implemented modern technologies to address safety, capacity, efficiency and environmental requirements as per the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY CONGRATULATES THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY UGANDA AS IT COMMEMORATES THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY 2017!

The East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (EAC-CASSOA) was established by the EAC Council of Ministers following the signing of a Protocol by three founder Partner States on 18th April 2007. It started operations on 1st June 2007, as an autonomous self-accounting institution of the EAC. It was thereafter formally launched on 18th June 2007 during the 5th Extraordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State held in Kampala, Uganda.

The mandate of CASSOA is based on Article 92 of the EAC Treaty, under which the Partner States undertake to make air transport services safe, efficient and profitable; adopt common policies for the development of civil air transport in the Region; harmonise Civil Aviation Laws and Regulations and coordinate measures and co-operate in the maintenance of high security.

VISION

Attain a Safe and Secure Regional Civil Aviation Industry through enhanced oversight systems.

MISSION

Developing, promoting and coordinating the implementation of Sustainable Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Systems in the Partner States.

Alongside the CORE VALUES of the EAC, CASSOA shall promote Integrity, Professionalism, Respect and Teamwork in the work place.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES on the basis of these thematic areas:

- To enhance CASSOA's corporate image and strengthen its governance and finance structure.
- To promote an effective and sustainable civil aviation safety oversight system in the region.
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