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SIRIKA UNVEILS THE 2022 SEASONAL CLIMATE PREDICTION TO THE NATION



■ The Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika flanked by the Director General of Nimet, Prof. Masur Matazu and Representative of the World Meteorological Organisation for North, Central and West Africa, Bernard Edward GOMEZ during the unveiling of the 2022 Seasonal Climate Prediction to the Nation.

The Hon. Minister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika has unveiled the 2022 seasonal climate prediction and the 2021 State of the Climate in Nigeria for adoption and planning of critical activities across all sectors of the economy. The presentation was made at the annual event of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Nimet for the Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP) in

Abuja. Sirika said "we are living in times when most economies worldwide have become fragile due to multiple complexities ranging from insecurity to the global pandemic and its attendant impact on many socio-economic activities." This is attributed in part, to the COVID-19 crisis, low oil prices, and shrinking foreign remittances, among others. Amidst

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JAMAICA SEEKS A DIRECT FLIGHT FROM NIGERIA

The Jamaican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mrs Kamina Smith has sought the support of Nigeria's Aviation Minister to fast track the finalization of the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) between the two countries to enhance trade, tourism and connectivity. She stated this when she visited the Hon. Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika in his office in Abuja.

Mrs Kamina Smith spoke on the two articles: "designation, authorization and revocation" and "suspension of operating authorization" of the air service agreement be reviewed and urged the team to see how the modalities of the two articles could be realized.

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■ L-R: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica, Mrs Kamina Smith and Minister of Aviation, Sen Hadi Sirika in his office when she paid him a courtesy visit.

...SIRIKA UNVEILS THE 2022 SEASONAL CLIMATE PREDICTION TO THE NATION

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these, climate change and climate variability continue to be a reality we cannot shy away from". He said many disastrous weather and climate events continue to increase in intensity and frequency bringing untold hardship to the people and straining further already fragile economy, saying in recent weeks, the aviation industry has witnessed many flights cancellation and delays due to bad weather causing economic losses and social discomfort. Sirika said the theme for this year's Seasonal Climate Prediction is Strengthening Climate Actions through Timely and Impact-based Climate Prediction for Economic Recovery, saying is apt and should be fully supported to put in place measures to alleviate the sufferings of the people and improve the economy. He called on the Governors and Legislators to partner with the Agency for this downscaling efforts. The Minister disclosed that the rainfall and temperature prediction for the 2021 season played out as predicted for most parts of the country, however, he said there were few places where the observed rainfall and temperature was a departure from the forecast, especially on the predicted day and night temperatures for January. This development is not unconnected with the changing climate which is making the predictability of weather and climate events increasingly

difficult. Speaking on this year's climate prediction, he said the earliest onset of the planting season (beginning of planting activities) is expected about the 28th of February 2022 in the Coastal parts of the country while the onset of rainfall is expected to occur between April and May in the Central states, and eventually within June to July in the Northern states. The onset of the planting season is predicted to be normal over most parts of Nigeria with a few areas having it earlier while some areas having it delayed. Sirika further explained that in recognition of the importance of the seasonal climate predictions and other Early Warning products and services, Nimet is being empowered and positioned for more strategic partnership. Thus, through collaboration with universities and other Higher Institutions has increased from 54 to over 200 meteorological stations, and this is still ongoing in all parts of the country. The Director-General of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (Nimet) Prof Mansur Bako Matazu said as the mandate of the agency, it observes, collect, process, and disseminate all meteorological data and information within and outside, explaining that the service cut across Aviation, Telecommunication, Health., marine and Education in support of sustainable



Director-General, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (Nimet)
Prof Mansur Bako Matazu

socio-economic activities in the country. "The challenges of variability in climate viz viz global warming which has recent times given rise to high rainfall amounts occurring within a short duration has made flood episodes more frequent. With such recurring extreme events, the SCP becomes a veritable tool to notify relevant stakeholders and emergency managers of the anticipated rainfall pattern within the season for necessary mitigation plans". The DG stated. Goodwill messages were also presented by various organisations.



AIB-N RELEASES REPORT ON QUORUM HELICOPTER CRASH, THREE OTHERS



The Accident Investigation Bureau Nigeria (AIB-N), has released Quorum Helicopter crash and three other accident reports, the only fatal accident in the country in the last five years.

The agency, besides the four reports also released a Safety Bulletin at a press conference held in Abuja Corporate Headquarters.

The fatal accident, which involved Quorum Aviation Limited Bell 206B3 Helicopter with registration 5N-BQW, occurred at Opebi, Ikeja, Lagos State on 28th August 2020.

Addressing the media, AIB-N Commissioner, Engr. Akin Olateru, disclosed that the causal factor of the accident was due to fuel exhaustion at low altitude and low speed leading to loss of control in flight.

He added that the pilot's decision to continue the flight towards the intended destination with insufficient fuel instead of landing as soon as practicable in line with section 12.12 of

Quorum Aviation Limited Operations Manual Part A, was part of the contributing factor that led to the fatal accident.

Other contributory factors, according to the Commissioner, was the lack of effective management supervision of the airline's flight operations and inadequate safety oversight of Quorum Aviation Limited

Three Safety Recommendations were, therefore, addressed to the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and the airline in the report.

In the other three reports and one Safety Bulletin released, the Bureau addressed a total of nine Safety Recommendations to the NCAA, the affected airlines, the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), among others.

The released reports included the report on an accident involving Skypower Express Airways Nigeria Limited Air Tractor AT-401B Aircraft with registration 5N-BTV, which occurred at Rukubi Village 90 NM South-East of Abuja on the 4th October 2018.

The Bureau also released the report on the serious incident involving Nigeria Police Airwing Bell 429 Helicopter with registration 5N-MDA which occurred at Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja on the 3rd August, 2019.

Also released was the report on the serious incident involving Skypower Express Airways Nigeria Limited Cessna 172 Aircraft with registration 5N-APE at Bini Village, Niger State on 19th November, 2019.

The Bureau also released one Safety Bulletin-Report on the ground collision involving a Central Bank of Nigeria

(CBN) Truck with registration AKD765FK and Nigeria Air Force (NAF) Bell 412 Helicopter with registration NAF 600 which occurred at Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja on 15th June, 2020.

The DG stated that the newly released reports make a total of 53 reports released by his administration at AIB, adding that 72 reports have been released since the establishment of the Bureau in 2007.

He further added that the Bureau has, so far, released a total of 232 Safety Recommendations since 2007, 151 of which were released by his administration from 2017 till date.

This, he said, is in line with fulfilling the Bureau's mandate of investigating aircraft accidents and serious incidents with a view to enhancing air safety in Nigeria.

"The Bureau is very conscious of her critical role in assuring a robust aviation safety in the country and globally even as it has resolved to pursue this with all vigour," Olateru said.

The Commissioner who appreciated the Hon. Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika for his unrelenting support for the Bureau, said "We have the men and the equipment backed with government support to ensure that AIB-N plays her role effectively and purposefully."

"Details of all the reports, which include the factual information, findings, analysis, conclusions and safety recommendations on the investigations are available on the Bureau's website, (www.aib.gov.ng)", he concluded.

...JAMAICA SEEKS A DIRECT FLIGHT FROM NIGERIA

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According to her, Jamaica and Nigeria have a long cultural tie, adding that Jamaica recently celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations with Nigeria. She further added that there was a lot of potential to promote direct connectivity to key destinations between the two countries.

Responding, the Minister of Aviation

affirmed that there was huge to gain between the two countries as air connectivity makes the people interact faster and create tourism. He said that the relationship should be within the context of the African Union and the dynamism of the relationship must align with African Civil Aviation.

He said the Ministry under his supervision

will fast track and do everything possible to see that BASA between the two countries is facilitated and the water body of the articles should not be a barrier between the countries. "I wish to see the inaugural flight from Jamaica soonest" he added.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S JOINT COMMITTEE VISITS FAAN

The Senate and House of Representatives Committee on Aviation visited the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Headquarters annex in Lagos as part of their oversight function to the Authority.

Receiving the distinguished national assembly officials, the Managing Director of the Authority, Capt. Rabiú Yadudu, who led the FAAN Management team to the meeting, expressed the Authority's appreciation to the Committees, noting that the organization has enjoyed the highest level of support, collaboration and co-operation from the Committees in the bid to realize its vision of being among the best airport groups in the world. In particular, he appreciated the Committees for their efforts at repealing the existing Aviation Agency Acts, and enacting new ones. He highlighted some of the achievements of the Authority in recent times to include; design, building and maintenance of interior spaces and assets at MMA, Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt terminals, construction of airline office block at Port Harcourt, rehabilitation of fire and rescue building at Port Harcourt, construction of Aviation medical clinic at Enugu international airport, replacement of terminal building ceiling at Enugu international airport, construction and furnishing of the lounge at the new international terminal, Abuja Airport, renovation of Aviation medical clinic at MMA, Lagos, provision of Covid-19 canopies and other support structures across all the nation's airports being managed by FAAN, continuous training and capacity



■ L-R: MD FAAN Captain Rabiú Yadudu; Chairman Senate Committee on Aviation, Sen. Smart Adeyemi and Chairman House Committee on Aviation, Hon. Nnolim Nnaji when they visited FAAN as part of the committees oversight

building for staff, amongst several others.

He added that the construction of the Lagos new terminal has reached 98% completion, and the terminal will be commissioned before the end of March, 2022.

However, he enumerated some of the challenges militating against the realization of the Authority's goals to include, capacity and contribution of airports to revenue generation, human capacity development, infrastructural gap, economic challenges affecting revenue generation, accumulated debts, rising operating and maintenance cost, amongst others. He requested the two Committees to assist and collaborate with the Authority in finding lasting solutions to these challenges.

In his response, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Aviation,

Senator Smart Adeyemi commended FAAN for all it has been able to achieve despite the challenges posed by Covid-19. He added that FAAN should work more in the area of improving airport security using technology, and also ensure that her human resources are well motivated. Also, the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Aviation, Hon. Nnolim Nnaji on his part advised that the new international terminal in Lagos should be reopened as soon as possible since it is the most patronized gateway in the nation. Stating that the Committee is also interested in the welfare and well being of workers, he noted that aviation is key to the socio-economic development of Nigeria, and as such, they will assist in whatever capacity possible to ensure that the industry is both robust and effective.



■ Sectional view of Joint National Assembly Committee on Aviation and staff of FAAN during the visit of the NASS committee to FAAN



■ Sectional view of Joint National Assembly Committee on Aviation and staff of FAAN during the visit of the NASS committee to FAAN



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION

The Ministry under the leadership of Hon. Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika is committed to delivering the key components of the Aviation sector Roadmap which is aimed at creating enabling environment for the industry to thrive. The roadmap comprises the following:

- i. Concession of four Airports
- ii. Establishment of a National Carrier (Nigeria Air)
- iii. Development of Agro-Allied /Cargo Terminals
- iv. Establishment of Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) Centre
- v. Establishment of an Aviation Leasing Company (ALC)
- vi. Development of Aerotropolis (Airport Cities)
- vii. Establishment of an Aerospace University.
- viii. Improvement in Aviation Safety and Security through upgrades and Modernization of Aviation Infrastructure and facilities.

Ministry of Aviation, Federal Secretariat Phase I, Shehu Shagari Way, Central Business District, FCT - Abuja

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AIB COMMEMORATES AIR CRASH VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES ...Says Nigeria Lost 2,038 Lives to Air Crashes in 53 years.

In Nigeria, the Accident Investigation Bureau of Nigeria (AIB-N), has observed the International Day for the Commemoration of Air Crash victims and their families in Abuja, in line with the mandate of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for the annual remembrance and honour of crashed victims, survivors and their families,

The Commissioner of AIB, Akin Olateru during the event disclosed that a total of 2,038 lives have been lost to air crashes in Nigeria from 1969 to 2022, with 1996 being onboard passengers and 42 on the ground. He noted that the aftermath of an Air incident can be devastating to survivors, crash victims and their families, all of whom require support and empathy.

Olateru assured that the industry regulators and relevant authorities are committed to offering significant support but even more so to prevent the recurrence of these incidents. Sympathizing with victims of air crashes, he said "I am truly sorry for your losses, and I know that no one can ever adequately compensate you. May the souls of your departed loved ones continue to rest in peace" He appreciated the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for

recognising the needs of air crash victims and their families and designating February 20 as the day to commemorate with them annually, and appreciated the Air Crash Victims' Families' Federation International (ACVFFI), for ensuring that issues concerning air crash accidents and their victims are prioritized internationally and for working with the ICAO to ensure a day is set aside to remember those whom Nigeria has lost to air crashes. The AIB Boss noted that in 2013, the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families was published and accompanied by a manual to ensure that the needs of the victims and their families are addressed promptly, adding also, that it is essential to have a readiness plan to support the involved victims and their families.

"Victims, survivors and their families should be treated with respect, dignity and empathy. It is vital that the government and airline operators render assistance and support to the victims and their families, and not just at the time of the accident or serious incident but afterwards too", he stated.

While noting that the Bureau has provided family assistance in the

recovery of personal effects of victims, identification of bodies, provision of information on accident investigations, and pathological services, amongst others, as well as the commemoration of air crash accident anniversaries, he urged the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to put in place effective policies and regulations that will mandate airline operators in the country to have Family Assistance Plans as part of their emergency plan or procedure.

He expressed determination to continue to extend the frontiers of safety in the aviation sector, as well as in the other forms of transportation, noting that the Bureau will follow global best practices in the industry, and by employing the latest technology and the most qualified personnel, to thoroughly investigate past occurrences and make the appropriate recommendations to ensure that they never occur again.

It will recall that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in cooperation with the Air Crash Victims' Families' Federation International (ACVFFI), has designated 20th February as the International Day Commemorating Air Crash Victims and Their Families.



■ AIB-N Commissioner, Engr. Akin Olateru addressing participants to mark International Day for Air crash victims in Abuja



■ Director Safety and Technical Policy of Ministry of Aviation, Capt Talba Alkali; AIB-N Commissioner, Engr. Akin Olateru and other dignitaries commemorating the international day for Air crash victims in Abuja

JOINT AVIATION UNIONS REACH AGREEMENT WITH FG AND CALL OFF STRIKE

...implementation of Conditions of Service to commence March 31

The joint Aviation unions have suspended the planned industrial action slated on 8th February after reaching an agreement with the Federal Government to implement the minimum wage/consequential adjustment and approve the reviewed Conditions of Service (CoS).

The unions had on 2nd February 2022 issued ultimatums to the Federal Ministry of Aviation and the six aviation agencies over failure to release negotiated CoS since 2013 and the non-implementation of minimum wage/consequential adjustment since 2019 but that the ultimatums expired January 31, 2019, without the demands being met. It then gave the government seven more days to resolve the issue or face industrial action.

A meeting to resolve the issue was held at the instance of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment between the leadership of all the associations and unions in the aviation industry and the Ministry of Aviation at the conference room of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The union leaders who were present at the meeting and signed the agreement were the President, National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE), Abednego Galadima, National President of the Air Transport Services Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (ATSSSAN), Illitrus Danjuma, National President of the National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE), Ben Nnabue, National President of the Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals (ANAP), Kabir Gusau and the National President of the Amalgamated Union of Public Corporation, Civil Service and Technical Employees (AUPCTRE), Benjamin Anthony.

Government officials in attendance were the Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Labour and Aviation, the chairman of the National Salaries



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika

Incomes and Wages Commission (NSIWC), representatives of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMeT), Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Trade Union Services and Industrial Relations (TUSIR), Budget Office of the Federation and the Head of Civil Service.

On the issue of non-implementation of the minimum wage/consequential adjustment, the NSIWC was requested to issue a Service of Wide Circular informing all organisations in the public and private sectors that they are bound to implement the wage and adjustment and the Ministry of Aviation is to circulate same to all agencies under its supervision, requesting them to implement it without further delay and also clarify that the payment became effective from April 18, 2019 when the minimum wage was signed into law. The meeting agreed that those that have exited the system during the period to date would also be paid arrears.

On the approval/release of the reviewed conditions of service of the agencies under the Ministry of

Aviation, the meeting agreed that the financial aspect for NAMA and NCAA would be resolved by the Presidential Committee on Salaries (PCS) by the third week of February.

In the case of NiMeT, the meeting was informed that the financial implication has been approved by the PCS and the implementation process has been concluded except for hazard allowances which would be reconsidered by the NSIWC on a sectorial level.

The meeting was also informed that the CoS for FAAN has been released since 2019 but some issues were observed and have been forwarded to the Ministry.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that by March 31, the Ministry of Aviation must ensure the approval, release and implementation of the reviewed CoS for all the workers in the agencies under the aviation ministry. After the agreement was signed, the seven days ultimatum issued for a planned industrial action was suspended.

PRESIDENT BUHARI INAUGURATES LAFIA CARGO AIRPORT



■ Lafia Cargo Airport, Nassarawa State

President Muhammad Buhari has inaugurated the Lafia Cargo Airport in Nassarawa State. Governor, Abdullahi Sule, while welcoming the president to the state informed him that the airport project was initiated by his predecessor, Umaru Al-Makura as an alternative to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja. The airport project which began in December 2015 was geared towards

unlocking the potential that lies in Nasarawa State to attract investment, provide job opportunities and complement the burden at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport Abuja, being the closest to the Federal Capital Territory. Among the dignitaries on the ground to receive the President, were Abubakar Bagudu of Kebbi, as well as the Deputy Governors of Benue, Mr Benson Abonu and Ebonyi, Mr

Eric Kelechi-Igwe, Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika and Minister of Special Duties, George Akume. Also on the ground to receive the President, were Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu, Minister of Science Technology and Innovation, Ogbonnaya Onu and Minister of States Science, Technology and Innovation, Mohammed Abdullahi and Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele.

NIGERIA HAS TOP-GRADE AIRSPACE MANAGERS – ACTING MD

The Acting Managing Director, National Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Mathew Pwajok, says the agency's workforce is competent and qualified to execute its duties. He announced this at a media forum in Abuja. According to him, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) screens and certifies all staff working on NAMA. "We have competent and qualified personnel in the sense that our personnel are licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority, the license requires that they demonstrate a standard level of competence. "It is the same global means of testing, evaluating and licensing personnel. You must reach that level of competence. In general aviation, we have a minimum passing score of 75 per cent. "So, it's pretty tall. There is no room for average performance. So in terms of competition, I can really say that we

have competent people. Pwajok, however, expressed his dissatisfaction with the insufficient number of personnel needed to attend to the work to be done. The head of NAMA noted that more competent and qualified personnel were needed to replace retirees and deploy them to the new airports that were being prepared to open. He said the agency was developing a strategy to properly carry out its responsibility to provide navigation services at all upcoming airports owned by state, private and federal governments. "State governments are building airports, private airports are being built, NAMA has the responsibility to provide navigation services in all these airports. Whether it is a federal airport, a state airport or a private airport. "And so, continually, there is an increase in demand for these personnel and we have to work strategically to recruit and train them. Training capacity is also



■ Acting Managing Director NAMA, Mathew Pwajok,

another limitation. "I can recruit a hundred, but the training aviation school must also have the corresponding capacity to train them. Otherwise, I would have hired, but the training might not have been proportional. "So in terms of technical and operational experts, like air traffic controllers and aircraft engineers, yes, we do have a shortfall and we are strategically working on recruitment and training," Pwajok said.

FG LAUNCHES REPORTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY AT ABUJA AIRPORT

The Presidential Enabling Business Environmental Council in Abuja launched an application “reportgov.ng” at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA) to promote security and safety.

Dr Jumoke Oduwole, the Special Adviser to the President on Ease of Doing Business said the software would enable airport users to share their experiences within the airport.

Oduwole said the application would enable the airport stakeholders to send information and to get feedback within 72 hours.

She added that the application would be made available in other airports for the government to effectively manage and control various activities at the airports in the country.

According to her, the move is to improve the conduct and values in the nation's airports to advance the aviation industry. “This is a new idea from the current administration. All the airports are mentioned in the App. Information comes straight to the presidency and FAAN, among others.

“Nigerians, public sectors, private sector, everybody including the media should help us by making complaints. We need that feedbacks,” she said.

In his part, Capt. Rabiu Yadudu, the Managing Director, Federal Airports



■ Left, Dr Jumoke Oduwole, Special Adviser to the President on Ease of doing Business with MD FAAN Captain Rabiu Yadudu at the launching of reporting system software to strengthen security at Abuja Airport.

Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) said the new application would complement efforts of FAAN toward security and safety within the nation's airports.

Yadudu commended the efforts of the council for the launching of the new application and thanked the Presidential Aide for her special interest and contribution to FAAN, saying the collaboration of the two establishments had promoted NAIA

internationally.

Similarly, NAIA Airport Manager, Mr Mahmud Sani said the contribution of the council in dealing with the passengers had earned it the 2018 Safety Award and 2020 Airport Service Quality Award for Best Airport by Size and Region. He urged all airport users to promote the national interest of NAIA, pointing out that the airport was a critical part of the nation.






MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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All correspondence should be addressed to:

Public Affairs Division,
Ministry of Aviation,
Federal Secretariat Phase I,
Shehu Shagari Way,
Central Business District,
FCT - Abuja

 @FMAVIATIONNG
 FMAVIATIONNG
 FMAVIATIONNG
 info@aviation.gov.ng
 www.aviation.gov.ng