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## PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI COMMISSION NEW INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL OF MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT, LAGOS ... It's to process 14 million passengers per annum - Sirika



President, Muhammadu Buhari addressing dignitaries during the commissioning of new Terminal Building at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, constructed by CCECC a Chinese company.

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari on 22nd March 2022 commissioned the new Terminal Building at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, as constructed by CCECC a Chinese company. Stating that, it's evident of the

strong commitment of the Federal Government to the development of world-class infrastructure across all sectors of the Nigerian economy. The President said, "our continuous investment in the building of long-lasting

*contd. in pg 2*

## FEC APPROVES N92.1BN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND RUNWAY AT ABUJA AIRPORT

**T**he Federal Executive Council, FEC, has approved N92.1 billion for the construction of a second runway at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. Addressing State House correspondents on the outcome of the Council's meeting, presided over by President Buhari in Abuja, the Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, said the administration would use the same pattern it had used to raise funding for all of its other projects across sectors to achieve the new task.

According to him, the Abuja runway project is expected to be completed within the next 12 months. The president directed the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning to look for special funding for the construction of the Abuja second runway. He said the President also directed the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to conclude the documentation of the approved 12,000 hectares of land to accommodate the runway and other developmental projects.

Similarly, the Minister of Aviation has inaugurated a Ministerial Technical Committee for the construction of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja's second runway and appealed to them to take the assignment seriously. Inaugurating the committee, the Minister of Aviation Hadi Sirika said a consultant has been appointed for the runway, that within a couple of weeks the contractor would have moved to the site.

He urged the Committee to ensure

*contd. in pg 3*

## ...PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI COMMISSION NEW INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL OF MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT, LAGOS *contd. from pg 1*

infrastructure in the aviation, road and rail transportation, agriculture, telecommunications and other critical sectors is yielding massive results, and the people of Nigeria are now increasingly attesting to benefiting from the associated dividends”.

He said similar projects at both the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja and Port Harcourt International Airport, River State was completed and commissioned by the administration and Nigerians have since been benefiting from the positive economic impacts of those magnificent terminals, adding that the one in Kano has also been completed, and will be commissioned soon, while work continues apace to complete that of Enugu shortly.

From the year 2015, he pointed out that the present administration has been deliberate and consistent in identifying and investing in critical projects that would improve the standard of living of our people, as well as contribute immensely to our growth and development as a nation. President Buhari further emphasized the importance of airport infrastructure as a catalyst for economic growth, Foreign Direct Investment and development globally, noting that the administration decided to prioritize the completion and delivery of five brand new international terminals, which were at an 11% completion level when it came into power in 2015.

“This aligns perfectly with our Aviation Roadmap, developed in 2016, for the purposes of establishing critical infrastructure, including a National Carrier, Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul Centre and improved Airports Terminals through concession, to boost aviation practice and take the industry to the next level, reflecting global standards”. He noted.

He explained that the government has also complemented these robust initiatives with specific fiscal policies to drive an aviation infrastructure renaissance. These include the designation of 4 airports, namely Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt as Free Trade Zones, in which customs duty is not applicable;



President Buhari together with the Minister of Aviation and other dignitaries inspect the facilities at the new terminal.

removal of VAT on all forms of shared transportation, including air transportation; and exemption of commercial aircraft and spare parts from VAT payment.

The Minister of Aviation was tasked to fast track the airport concession programme. Similarly, the Abuja second runway is being fast-tracked. The Minister of Finance is to source special funding for the project while the Minister of FCT is to conclude the titling of the approved 12,000 hectares of land to accommodate the runway and other developmental projects.

The President expressed appreciation to partners on the project, the Government and the People of the Republic of China, through the China Export-Import Bank and CCECC Nigeria Limited, for their commitment and support towards the completion of this infrastructure.

The Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika noted that the new terminal has the capacity to process 14 million passengers per annum. There are 66Nos. check-in counters, 5Nos. baggage collection carousels, 16Nos. Immigration Desks at Arrival, 28Nos as well as other facilities.

Sirika said “Aviation provides the only rapid worldwide transportation network, which makes it essential and most important infrastructure for

the global logistical ecosystem. It boosts economic growth, creates jobs, and facilitates international trade, commerce and tourism ultimately raising the standards of living of the teeming population. Aviation remains the only medium to achieving continental integration and interaction, the dream of African Union (AU) agenda 2063”.

The Aviation roadmap was developed and approved by the President on the 18th of October 2016, including National Carrier, Airport Concession, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Center (MRO), Aviation Leasing Company, Agro-Allied Cargo terminals, as well as Aerospace University, etc. The roadmap projects are being undertaken through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and the Ministry has been working very closely with Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) to ensure a credible and transparent process”.

He further explained that as the Airport Concession project (including the newly commissioned terminals) has reached an advanced stage, the Ministry will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the shortlisted firms before the end of March and will hopefully announce a partner in 2nd Quarter 2022 and handover by 4th Quarter 2022.

*contd. in pg 3*



## ...PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI COMMISSION NEW INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL OF MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT, LAGOS *contd. from pg 1,2*

"In 2015, the total passenger figure was a mere 8 million. With the implementation of some aspects of the roadmap, the passenger figure grew to about 18 million in 2019, making aviation the fastest growing sector of the national economy pre-COVID-19 pandemic" He noted. He said despite the devastating impact of the pandemic on the global aviation industry, the domestic industry has grown in leaps and bounds becoming the 3rd fastest growing sector of our economy according to Federal Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning projections. Sirika said Nigeria stands to gain significant benefits in restoring and

maintaining connectivity within, to and from the country. Adding that analysis from IATA shows that Aviation Sector provides N341bn GDP contribution, 160,000 local jobs created and N535bn expenditure from visitors will be solely generated from restoring and maintaining the connectivity.

The Minister assured of the Ministry of Aviation's commitment to the proper maintenance of all the terminal buildings and would integrate them with other infrastructure to ensure that passengers and other users have pleasant experiences each time they make use of them.

Speaking the ambassador of the

People's Republic of China to Nigeria, Mr. Deng Boqing said "today is really a good day for Nigeria and China, I'm very proud that two countries worked together under the leadership of President Buhari to achieve this successful project. I understand that Mr President your consistent philosophy of infrastructure is your national policy, we know that without this policy the whole country cannot move forward". He further said the new modern terminal building would elevate the international image of Nigeria, it can bring more travellers to Nigeria and this can bring more profit to the business and more benefits to the people.



## ...FEC APPROVES N92.1BN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND RUNWAY AT ABUJA AIRPORT *contd. from pg 1*

that all procurements processes related to the project follow due process and all financial transactions follow procedure. He added that the committee will ensure the acquisition of land and well titled as well as

ensure monthly debriefing.

The Members of the committee are; the Director of Air Safety, Director of Finance, Director of Procurement, Ag. Director Aerodrome, Director General, NCAA or representative.

Others include Managing Director FAAN, Representative of the Minister, representative of the Permanent Secretary, MD NAMA or his representative.

## NAMA TO INSTALL MODERN LANDING EQUIPMENT IN THREE AIRPORTS

**F**ollowing the successful installation of Category 3 Instrument Landing System in Lagos and Abuja airports, the Federal Government through the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency, says it has concluded plans to install the modern equipment in three additional airports to improve air safety in the country.

The acting Managing Director of NAMA, Mr. Lawrence Pwajok, who spoke on the plan to install the equipment, listed the three airports as Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano; Port-Harcourt International Airport; and the Katsina Airport.

He said the move would increase the number of airports that have Category 3 ILS in the country to five.

Pwajok described an instrument landing system as a piece of navigational equipment that provides lateral guidance for an aircraft, sky guidance for the aircraft, and longitudinal guidance for the aircraft when coming into landing.

He said "Navigational facility is one of the very critical requirements for



■ Acting Managing Director of NAMA, Mr. Lawrence Pwajok

access into an airport safely, efficiently, and economically. We place a very high premium on the procurement and installation of navigational equipment.

"Over the last five years, we have deployed significantly a large number of navigational equipment. I can go through some of them by justifying my statement.

"Currently, we have installed what we call Category 3 Instrument Landing

System, in Lagos and Abuja. We are also planning to install additional ones in Kano, Port Harcourt, and Katsina," he said.

The NAMA boss, who explained that the Category 3 landing system was the highest category for landing facilities anywhere in the world, said the government was set to invest heavily to ensure all the nation's international airports have it.

Pwajok said that the lighting system would complement Category 3. He said that a Category 3 approach system was required to guide the pilot using the instrument landing system.

He added, "Currently, we have installed an instrument landing system of Category 2 that requires what we called low visibility operations.

An Instrument Landing System is a radio navigation system that provides short-range guidance to aircraft to enable them to approach an airport runway at night or in bad weather.

In its original form, it allows an aircraft to approach until it is 200 feet (61m) over the ground, within a half-mile (800m) of the runway.

## NIGERIA NEEDS AUTOMATION PROCESS TO BOOST AVIATION, SAYS, MINISTER

**T**he Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, has described automation processes as an indispensable tool that must be deployed to boost Nigeria's Aviation Sector.

He made this assertion during the ninth edition of Aviation Workers Week and Awards with the theme "The gains of an automated personnel management system in the aviation sector" organized by the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Council (JCNC) of the Federal Ministry of Aviation in Abuja.

Represented by his chief of staff, Engr. Bayode Sunday, Sirika commended the JCNC, an amalgam of four existing unions, for choosing the theme, expressing the hope that the outcome of the congress will boost the aviation sector.

*contd. in pg 6*



■ Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation, Mr Abel Enitan addressing staff at Aviation Workers Week in Abuja





# 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.

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## ...NIGERIA NEEDS AUTOMATION PROCESS TO BOOST AVIATION, SAYS, MINISTER

contd. from pg 4

In his remarks, the ministry's permanent secretary, Mr. Abel Enitan, re-echoed the minister's assertion, saying automation process by every standard has become the norm in the contemporary world of business and governance.

"In consideration of the critical roles the aviation industry plays in the nation's economy vis-à-vis the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), adopting the automation culture in our daily lives has become totally indispensable. I would like to reiterate further that the relevance of the theme for discussion by the team of professionals is most likely to change the perception of our workers and speedily embrace the automation system in our various workplaces," he said.

Enitan averred that the government's recent stance on the need for a paperless work system and the launching of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy, all

lend credence to the seriousness attached to issues of computerization, digitalization and automation.

According to him, the ministry, in conjunction with the unions has taken the initiative to engage and sensitize all stakeholders in the six geopolitical zones on this paradigm shift, adding the results, responses and reactions received from participants were quite overwhelming.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the JCNC chairman, Comrade Hector Nnadi, said the unions have over time realized the countless potentials of the automation system in driving the various sectors of any nation's economy.

He said this trend has been the currency for some decades with countries moving further to other areas of digitization, stressing the quantum leap as experience in most advanced countries of the world through the adoption of automation is a visible testimony.

"The recent adoption of a national policy on the subject and government's emphasis and plans on a change in our work culture underscores the future of government and private businesses," he added.

Nnadi revealed that the unions have resolved to push through the automation culture through a series of activities which it hopes will lead to total adoption of this concept to attain the status of global citizens.

In his goodwill message, the president of, the National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE), Comrade Abednego Galadima, described the theme of the event as apt looking at the fact that COVID-19 has changed the world's landscape where automation has become the new normal.

He added that it is also instructive that automation is one of the emerging areas where unions and management will have to agree on several things.



## SIRIKA RECEIVES ATACA EXCO ON A COURTESY VISIT

**M**inister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika has received an audience of the Executive Members of the Abuja Transport and Aviation Correspondents Association (ATACA) in his office, the visit was to strengthen information flows between the Ministry and the association.

Speaking, Senator Sirika welcome the association executive members to his office and further revealed that the process for the concession of Nigeria's four major international airports namely Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt and Kano will be completed in the second quarter of this year.

Sirika also announced that the requests for proposal on the establishment of a national carrier would be advertised in the national dailies, "The transaction advisers for the concession have finished the Outline Business Case and had got the Request for Qualification. We've pre-qualified the people and they've been issued a Request for Proposal.

"They've turned the proposals in and we are analysing them to announce the successful bidders and this will be soon. Our timetable is for the first quarter of this year.

"Well, I can see that it is still happening, let's be very ambitious, but certainly it will end in the second quarter and all the (identified) airports will be concessioned."

The minister further noted that many airports have been established since

the current administration took over the government in 2015.

"There are more airports today than when we came in 2015. There are Anambra and Lafia airports; there is Ekiti airport, going on; Makurdi airport, going on; Yobe airport, Ebonyi airport and many other airports.

"We have about 12 new airports added since we came and this is growth. And we have the same in other aspects of the sectors, as more runways are being added, more capacities for the airports are being delivered.

Sirika expressed that the government was diligently implementing the key components of the aviation sector roadmap, adding that the project will be achieved before the end of the term of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The minister also revealed plans to begin the issuing of requests for proposals to intending investors for the establishment of the national carrier in March.

He said, "The transitional adviser is going to request for proposal. The government will own five per cent, Nigerians will own 46 per cent and the international partners' airlines will take 49 per cent shares.

"We will give them some weeks to respond to the request, then we will announce the winning bidder. However, in the interim, because the government intends to own only five per cent of the airline shares, we are

going to go ahead with the AOC (Air Operator Certificate) which has commenced since."

Sirika added, "I believe that by April, we should be able to have our AOC ready, which means, we are ready to start. And once the AOC is in our hands, the offices are secured, the interim board is being constituted, and when they finish signing the contract, we will announce who they are.

"Currently, they are called interim because they will hold the airline on an interim base up to the time the investors will come and take over."

Sirika said the interim board members "are noble people, some are Nigerians, some are not. I think they are about nine of them to run the airline and they will begin operations between now and July."

He said that within the period, Nigeria Air would run Lagos and Abuja, "and as the situation demands, they may extend to Port Harcourt and other parts of the country."

The Chairman, Comrade Chris Agabi, commended the Minister for his steadfastness in implementing the Aviation Road map despite the daunting task. He added that as major stakeholders to the Ministry they should always be able to properly inform people about the happenings in the sector and saying that what prompted the visit.

The highlight of the visit was the presentation of ATACA Magazine by the Chairman who led the delegation.



Chairman, Abuja Transport and Aviation Correspondent Association (ATACA), Chris Agabi presents the association's magazine to the Hon Minister of Aviation.



Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen Hadi Sirika in a group photograph with executive members of ATACA during the courtesy visit to him in his office.



## MINISTER GIVES REASONS WHY NIGERIA IS SET TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL CARRIER

...assures of no government interference

**T**he Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika has given reasons why Nigeria as a nation needs a national carrier and has assured that government would steer clear of its affairs allowing it to run smoothly. Sirika made this known at the World Government Summit (WGS) In Dubai while discussing the future of global aviation.

According to the Minister who was responding to questions by the moderator of the session and travel expert, Richard Quest, he said the country's equidistance and a sheer number of those with the propensity to fly make it necessary.

Sirika said, "Nigeria is situated at the centre of Africa, equidistant from all locations in Africa. 30.4 million square kilometres miles, 1.5 billion people, very green land. If Central and Eastern Africa is the belt of the continent, then Nigeria is the buckle.

"200 million people and rising middle class, propensity to fly are high. Nigeria is a candidate for National Carrier."

Interjecting, Quest asked if the airline is going to be private and if the Nigerian government would be able to keep its hands off as that trend has been rife in the past, Sirika responding said, "The airline would be private, yes. 5 per cent government and no government stepping right in that company, no government control, no membership of government on board. Totally private and committed."

"Whatever we say we will do as a government since 2015, it has happened. that is why Tim Clark's Emirate, Qatar Airways and all of them are looking to go into Nigeria in multiple frequencies and multiple landing points because Nigeria is the right place for the airline business.

On why countries locked down during the COVID-19 pandemic despite warnings from the aviation community on the effects, Sirika said Nigeria's response to the pandemic was to save lives.

Also speaking at the Session, Emirates CEO, Sir Tim Clark described Nigeria as a powerhouse with regards to traffic stressing that



■ Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika

there is enormous business there as its people seek to travel.

"Nigerians are seeking to travel all over the world. Nigeria is a powerhouse in Africa. We are over interested in flying there because it is a rich nation in terms of demand for services. He also extended Emirates' offer of assistance concerning implementing a master plan for the entity.

"It is a very rich If the minister needs some assistance in how they go about practising a blueprint, we are very happy to help but I would say not to be too disingenuous to ourselves,

if they got the wherewithal they clearly understand what they are doing and they are doing it and probably in the next year, they will a very good carrier flying and please come to Dubai because there is so much demand.

Director-General of Airports Council International, H.E. Luis Felipe de Oliveira, commented in terms of airport capacity said the potential for Nigeria and Africa as a whole is huge.

"We need to find a way that we can reduce the restriction inside and outside of Africa to bring more passengers to continue to fly.

**Whatever we say we will do as a government since 2015, it has happened. that is why Tim Clark's Emirate, Qatar Airways and all of them are looking to go into Nigeria in multiple frequencies and multiple landing points because Nigeria is the right place for the airline business**



## AVIATION MINISTER APPOINTS ODAUDU AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**M**inister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika has appointed a former Director of Public Affairs in the Ministry, Dr James Odaudu as his Special Assistant, Public Affairs. The appointment comes less than a month after Odaudu retirement from the Federal civil service, having attained the mandatory service years. Prior to his disengagement, the newly appointed Special Assistant

had served as Sirika's Director of Public Affairs since his appointment as Minister by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Odaudu, a graduate of the University of Jos and the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, holds degrees in Theatre and Communications Arts and a PhD in Public Administration, with a wealth of experience in information management that traverse the health, communication, agriculture and security sectors.



James Odaudu, PhD Special Assistant, Public Affairs to the HMA

## DISCLAIMER: NO PREFERRED BIDDER FOR "NIGERIA AIR YET"

**O**ur attention has been drawn to reports in some media to the effect that Qatar Airways has been chosen as the preferred bidder for Nigeria's national carrier, 'Nigeria Air'. The report, coming just two days after the issuance of a Request For Proposal which was published in local and international news media, is not only false but capable of discrediting the process for the establishment of the airline, and discouraging interested parties. We wish to state that throughout the process leading to the publication of the Request for Proposal, the guiding principle has been transparency and

accountability which we promised will remain till the final delivery of the project, and by which we stand.

We wish to state categorically that no corporate entity or individual has been appointed or selected, or even preferred for the project as the process for selection has just started with the Request for Proposal.

All interested partners and the public are therefore advised to discountenance the report and proceed with their proposals as we assure them of our unalloyed commitment to transparency and accountability till the end of the process.

Our driving force is the commitment



of the Buhari administration to bequeath to the country a national carrier that Nigerians would be proud of, and our determination and commitment to it remain stoic.

Finally, we wish to appeal to media practitioners to always confirm information from the right quarters before going to press to avoid misleading the public.

## MS. AKRO TAKES OVER FROM ODAUDU

**T**he Director of Public Affairs, Ministry of Aviation Mr. James Odaudu PhD has retired from the Federal

service after attaining mandatory service years. He has officially passed the baton of leadership to Ms. Eunice Akro, a Deputy Director

on 17th March 2022.

Below is the picture of the handover:







# MINISTRY OF AVIATION



## Aviationnews

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