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EMIRATES ENDORSES NIGERIA'S NATIONAL CARRIER



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika

A major carrier of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Emirates Airlines has endorsed Nigeria's national carrier project and offered to help the nation in her quest. The Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, made this known during a meeting recently in Abuja. Sirika said the airline's offer has elicited requests for clarification from industry stakeholders by Emirates management.

The offer by Emirates cannot be anything other than an endorsement of the need, the zeal and, of course, the process for the national carrier project. Also, it is an expression of confidence by the international aviation community in the commitment of the Buhari government to it.

Speaking recently during a panel session moderated by Richard Quest to discuss

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COVID-19: NEW TRAVEL GUIDELINE TAKES EFFECT FROM APRIL 4 – PSC

A new international travel guideline has been issued by the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on COVID-19, removing mandatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for fully vaccinated visitors and stiff penalties for unvaccinated travellers violating the new rules. According to the 'Provisional Travel Protocol for Travelers Arriving Nigeria', issued by the Chairman of the PSC and Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr Boss Mustapha, the new

guideline, which takes effect from Monday, April 4, 2022, also prescribes sanctions for airlines that bring violators of the new rules.

Mustapha said that the new guideline prescribed for the fully vaccinated would apply to travellers between ages 10 and 18 years. He said that unvaccinated or partially-vaccinated international travellers would still be required to take the PCR test 48 hours before boarding a flight to



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...EMIRATES ENDORSES NIGERIA'S NATIONAL CARRIER

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the future of Aviation at the Dubai Expo 2022, the president of Emirates Tim Clark, said the organisation would be very happy to help if any assistance was required in starting the national carrier.

According to Clark who was speaking in support of the position of Sirika, the establishment of a national carrier is an almost compelling case for Nigeria, going by certain indices.

"Of course, Nigeria needs a national airline. There is an enormous business case for the national carrier.

Nigerians are seeking to travel all over the world. Nigeria is a powerhouse of Africa. We are very interested in flying there because it is a rich nation in terms of demand for services," Clark said.

Also, the minister said the offer is an encouragement to the many bidders currently preparing their PPP bids for 'Nigeria Air' in response to the recently advertised request for proposal (RFP).

The process for the acquisition of the air operator's certificate (AOC) and

the air transport license (ATL) is well on course for the expected launch date of the airline, which Sirika has assured [that] Nigerians will be proud of.

As has been repeatedly stated, the whole process for the establishment of the national carrier, and, indeed, all the projects under the administration's aviation roadmap, has been guided by the principles of transparency and accountability and this will remain till the final delivery of the project," it added.

...COVID-19: NEW TRAVEL GUIDELINE TAKES EFFECT FROM APRIL 4

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Nigeria.

"This protocol is a revision of the Travel Protocol released on 29th November 2021 Interim Travel Guidelines for Passengers arriving in Nigeria. "In-bound passengers to Nigeria, who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, are no longer required to carry out COVID-19 PCR test before boarding Nigeria-bound flights.

"Fully vaccinated passengers arriving in Nigeria will not also be required to carry out Post arrival PCR test or a Rapid Antigen Test upon arrival in Nigeria.

"Children below the age of 18 years will be accorded the same privileges as persons who are fully vaccinated.

"In-bound Passengers who are unvaccinated or partially-vaccinated for COVID-19 shall take a COVID-19 PCR test 48 hours before departure and undergo Days 2 and 7 post-arrival PCR tests at their own cost.

"All in-bound passengers MUST register via the online Nigeria International Travel Portal (NITP-

<https://nitp.ncdc.gov.ng>)," it said.

Meanwhile, for outbound travellers, the guideline prescribes that "all passengers travelling out of Nigeria are: "Encouraged to have evidence of full vaccination against COVID-19; "Comply with the COVID-19 guidelines of their destination or transit countries; and

"Familiarise themselves with the COVID-19 travel requirements of their destination and transit countries before embarking on the journey," it said.

Addressing the issue of airlines boarding violators of the guideline, it said, among other sanctions, such airlines would be fined US\$3,500 for each violator and could be banned from flying into Nigeria.

"Airlines that board travellers without the appropriate required documents; Vaccine certificate, a negative COVID-19 PCR test done not more than 48 hours before boarding, and a Paid Permit to Travel/QR code (as may be applicable to the passenger, shall be sanctioned as follows:

"Travelers, who are non-Nigerians, will be refused entry into Nigeria and returned to the point of embarkation at the cost to the airline;

"Travelers who are Nigerians or holders of a permanent residence permit will be allowed entry but subjected to the procedure outlined in Section D of the guideline.

"In addition, travellers arriving with forged (fake) vaccine certificates or COVID-19 PCR results shall be prosecuted and required to carry out PCR tests on arrival, on days 2 and 7.

"Airlines shall be fined US\$ 3,500 per traveller for failure to comply with any of the pre-boarding requirements.

"Airlines who consistently fail to comply with the requirements may be banned from coming to Nigeria; and at the time of boarding, travellers will be required to undergo temperature screening and asked about COVID-19 symptoms.

"Travelers with temperature 38°C and other COVID-19-related signs and symptoms shall not be allowed to board the flight," the document read.

FEC APPROVES N35BN FOR PROJECTS IN THE AVIATION SECTOR

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved N35 billion for various projects in the aviation sector. The projects include the increased cost of construction of terminal buildings at Akanu Ibiam International Airport

Enugu State and the airport at Asaba. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, made this known after Wednesday's cabinet meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari. He said N5.6 billion of the money was approved for the maintenance of the

nation's new international building terminals in Abuja and Port Harcourt. "There were five memoranda from civil aviation, which were all approved, starting from the one for contract for the maintenance of Nigeria's new international terminal

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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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...FEC APPROVES N35BN FOR PROJECTS IN THE AVIATION SECTOR

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buildings in Abuja and Port Harcourt. "This is in line with the government's policy to ensure that public buildings are well maintained so that they will remain as they are. "In this case, the contract was approved for the two terminal buildings at a total cost of N5,653,341,729.07, including 7.5 per cent VAT, for a period of three years," he said.

Sirika added that the Council also approved N14.2 billion as the increase in the cost of the construction of terminal buildings at Akanu Ibiam International Airport Enugu State and at the Asaba Airport. "The second memo is the approval for the increase in the cost of construction of the new terminal building at perishable cargo airports in Enugu and Asaba.

"That of Asaba is not a Federal Government airport, but we are putting in a cargo terminal building there.

"This is funded through the federal budget. Recall that the remaining four terminal buildings in Kano, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja are funded through Chinese loans.

"The Enugu airport is funded through our appropriation including the cargo terminal therein and also the cargo terminal at Asaba.

"The increased cost for these procurements is N14,242,808,433.17 with 12 months additional completion period," Sirika said.

He said the Ministry also got the

approval of N 469.4 million for the procurement of an X-ray machine and maintenance support services. "The other one is approval for the award of contract for the procurement of L3 X-ray machine parts and maintenance support services. This procurement is in the sum of N469,679,484 with 7.5 per cent VAT to be supplied in a period of 12 months," he added.

Sirika also announced that the cabinet approved increased costs for the procurement, configuration, and delivery and commissioning of

transportable radars.

According to him, this is co-mounted with another radar and tower control centre for the enhancement of the Northeast surveillance safety of air navigation operations and for the airport at Maiduguri to run for 24 hours daily.

The minister said N14.7 billion was approved for the construction of clinics at Abuja, Kano, Port Harcourt, and Lagos Airports as well as the replacement of elevators and excavators at Wings 'D' and 'E' at the old Lagos Airport.



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika

FAAN TO INTRODUCE PARK AND PAY AT ABUJA AIRPORT

The management of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja have concluded an arrangement to introduce park and pay for motorists coming into the airport.

The Airport Manager/Regional general manager North Central, Kabir Mohammed in a chat with Aviation Correspondents in Abuja said the introduction of the system will address the problems of touts, who go about harassing and extorting innocent drivers who bring in passengers at the airport.

He also said as part of the ongoing reorganisations at the airport, the rowdy taxi drivers and the illegal businesses going on at the front of the departure hall at the airport will be addressed.

Also, to address the issue of the traffic gridlock at the toll gate of the airport, which affected staff, airport users and passengers, the airport manager said they recently commissioned a task force which constitutes of himself and the head of the department to supervise at the toll gate on a daily basis with the sole aim of managing the inflow of traffic into

the airport.

This effort, he said, has improved the situation to a great extent, making entry into the airport easier. Mohammed said they have also proposed the relocation of the Mosque to a more comfortable location for easy vehicular movements within the airport and as well as expanding the car park.

He further said they have proposed the introduction of shuttle buses for staff, stakeholders and airport users, as well as a staff welfare & recreation centre.

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...FAAN TO INTRODUCE PARK AND PAY AT ABUJA AIRPORT

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Introduction of staff weekly/monthly reporting which has made a positive impact on staff discipline and performance.

AIB-N RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON FOUR AIRCRAFT SERIOUS INCIDENTS, ACCIDENT
The Accident Investigation Bureau, Nigeria (AIB-N) has released four preliminary reports on serious incidents and accidents involving aircraft owned and operated by United Nigeria Airlines Limited, Max Air, Air Peace and the Nigerian Police Air Wing.

The preliminary reports are as follows:

1. The Preliminary report on the Serious Incident involving the United Nigeria Airlines Embraer 145LR aircraft with nationality and registration marks 5N-BWW, which was climbing out of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Nigeria when a serious incident occurred at about 4,000 feet on 17th November, 2021. Details can be found at <https://aib.gov.ng/.../04/Preliminary-Report-to-5N-BWW.pdf>

2. The Preliminary report on the Serious Incident involving Max Air Boeing 737-300 aircraft, which was parked at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja with nationality and registration marks 5N-DAB and was involved in an on-ground collision with Skyway Aviation Handling Co. Plc (SAHCO) lavatory service truck with fleet number 9/5 on 21st November 2021.

Details can be found at <https://aib.gov.ng/.../04/Preliminary-Report-to-5N-DAB.pdf>



■ Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

Report-to-5N-DAB.pdf

3. The Preliminary report on a serious incident involving a Boeing 737-300 aircraft owned and operated by Air Peace Limited with nationality and registration marks 5N-BUQ, which occurred after take-off from Sam Mbakwe Airport, Owerri, Nigeria en route to Lagos on 22nd November, 2021.

Details can be found at <https://aib.gov.ng/.../Preliminary-Report-Air-Peace-5N-BUQ.pdf>

4. The preliminary report on an accident involving a Bell 429 helicopter owned and operated by Nigeria Police Air Wing with Nationality and Registration marks 5N-MDA, which occurred at the Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Airport, Bauchi, Nigeria on 26th January, 2022.

Details can be found at <https://aib.gov.ng/.../04/Preliminary-Report-to-5N-MDA.pdf>

The reports are already on the Bureau's website (www.aib.gov.ng). Preliminary reports are not the final reports as they only contain details of the initial facts, discussions and findings surrounding the occurrences; which include information gathered from witness statements, flight recorders, Health and Usage Monitoring System (HUMS) Data, Flight Data Monitoring (FDM) data, and preliminary inspection of the accident sites and the wreckage.

Therefore, investigations on these serious incidents and accidents are still ongoing and final reports will be released at the conclusions of the respective investigations.

NAMA HANDS OVER 29 SITES FOR MULTILATERATION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM INSTALLATION

The Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) is at the completion stage of its pet project, the Wide Area Multilateration (WAM) system, which is a surveillance system to cover Nigeria's delta region.

The agency said it has recorded a milestone with the handover of 29 sites by the agency to ERA /CWA for system parts installation, including all

construction works necessary for system commissioning, daily operations and maintenance.

The handover was formalised recently with the signing of the Site Handover Certificate by both parties. The Director, Safety Electronics Engineering Services, Farouk Umar, presided on behalf of the agency while ERA of the Czech Republic was represented by their subcontractors,

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...NAMA HANDS OVER 29 SITES FOR MULTILATERATION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM INSTALLATION

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Cathedral (WestAfrica) CWA.

Oil and gas activities occasioned a lot of helicopter operations in the Niger Delta and the purpose of WAM is to capture these flight operations that are outside the radar coverage areas in the country.

This is done for safety and security purposes and according to the agency, benefits of the system include the provision of low-cost extension of the surveillance coverage for low altitudes and areas where no radar coverage currently exists; optimization of surveillance infrastructure through the efficient mix of radar sensors, MLAT and ADS-B; increased airspace safety and capacity by providing separation to aircraft operating in the region.

The project upon completion will provide additional source of revenue

for the agency and MLAT applications, particularly when combined with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) to provide important operational improvements by addressing some of the limitations of the traditional radar surveillance system, optimize the controller workload and provide benefits in the areas of safety, capacity, efficiency and environmental impact, thus contributing to the overall Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) objectives.

Multilateration Surveillance Technology (MST) requested by NAMA includes necessary services e.g. installation, optimization and commissioning of the WAM system for Nigeria.

This incorporates the supply and installation of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) system at Port Harcourt International airport with the ATM display for Area 1- Port Harcourt, Area 2 -Qua'iboe /Calabar and Area 3 -Osubi /Escravos in a single ATM Centre.

It also includes the installation of equipment at all sites, the supply and installation of equipment of the Central Processing Unit; the supply and installation of Control Working Positions; the provision of a system having the capacity for management of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS); the provision of all ancillary equipment which the system may require for its operation e.g. GNSS antenna /receiver etc and the provision of training for ATC and maintenance engineers.

AVIATION MINISTER SENATOR HADI SIRIKA WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ICAO COUNCIL HE SALVATORE SCIACCHITANO AT THE WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT IN DUBAI.







MINISTRY OF AVIATION



Aviationnews

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