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"STOP BEING UNRULY AT THE AIRPORTS"

... Sirika tells Airline passengers



■ Sen. Hadi Sirika, Hon. Minister of Aviation.

The Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika has admonished airline passengers to desist from attacking airlines staff and vandalizing equipment at the nation's Airports, as the government vowed not to tolerate such unruly passengers.

Sirika stated this when the Airline Operator of Nigeria (AON) led by the President visited his office. He said, "Passengers should stop taking the law into their hands because there is a passenger's Bill of Rights and Policy to

remedy those situations".

According to him, there could be many reasons why there was a flight delay, some of which were unexplainable are not pardonable but most of those that were explainable delays are force majeure (an act of God) or due to circumstances that are beyond the control of the airlines.

He said "Certainly, also there are delays caused by the airlines themselves due to at some points operational lapses and inefficiency in the operation, those are

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AIRLINES URGED TO PAY OUTSTANDING DEBTS

Aviation agencies have urged the local airlines to pay their outstanding debts for the services rendered to them. The call was made at a meeting with the Ministry of Aviation, Aviation agencies, Scheduled Airline Operators and Ground Handlers in Abuja. According to them, for the local airlines to owe such debts up till now is illegal.

Capt. Musa Nuhu, the Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), who appealed to the airlines to pay their debts said the

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■ L-R : DG NCAA, Capt. Musa Nuhu with Director, Air Transport Management Federal Ministry of Aviation, Mr. Hassan Ejibunu, DG FCCPC, Mr Babatunde Irukera and CEO Air Peace, Barr. Allen Onyema at the meeting in Abuja

...“STOP BEING UNRULY AT THE AIRPORTS”

contd. from pg 1

kinds of delays which are painful. Government has policies on what to do because we have the passenger's Bill of Rights and I encourage you to go through that bill of rights”.

“Passengers should stop taking the law into their hands because there is a passenger's bill of rights and policy to remedy those situations. If you take the law into your hands and beat-up airline managers or staff you are considered an unruly passenger” he added.

Sirika said “Aviation should be seen

and be known as a critical security enterprise. We won't accept people being unruly at the airports. We won't accept people manhandling airline staff or Aviation security this must stop and the government won't take that. Whatever is due to the passenger he will get it”.

He assured airline passengers that if an airline will delay a flight without a cause or did something to injure the passengers, the passenger has a contract with the airline; the government that provides the

environment to the airlines will certainly follow it up and ensured maximum punishment for the airline.

He urged passengers to acquaint themselves with their rights. He said both NCAA and FAAN have published those rights at the airport and on their websites. He said, “Government is more than willing to follow up on their right they should desist from vandalization of equipment at the airport or being unruly, indeed the government is not taking it anymore”.

...AIRLINES URGED TO PAY OUTSTANDING DEBTS

contd. from pg 1

airlines were currently owing N19 billion and 7.6 million dollars on ticket charges collected from passengers but refused to remit to NCAA.

Nuhu said that a sanction would be taken against any defaulting airlines if they refused to pay within a month.

He expressed displeasure against the letter that the Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) sent to the Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika recently, quoting AON as demanding a review of multiple charges of aviation agencies.

The director-general affirmed that all the charges met best practices as obtained all over the country, pointing out that many neighbouring countries even charge higher than Nigeria.

“We cannot provide services and you want the government to grant a waiver. How can the agencies manage to survive? “NCAA sustains on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) without any money from the Federal Government.

“We have not increased our charges in 13 years. We are still collecting the same charge. So, nothing like a burden on airline operators,” he said. Mr Matthew Pwajok, the Acting Managing Director, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), who also called on local airlines to pay their debts, said that the airlines ought to be considerate in their dealings. He said that the local airlines are to pay the sum of N5.73billion to NAMA as of June.

“NAMA is 100 per cent self-funded from its internally generated revenue

for salaries, running costs, training and capital projects and 25 per cent of the revenue generated by the agency is deducted at source by the Federal Government.

“The agency also shares its revenue with NiMet. The revenue generated is also re-invested to fund the provision of communication, navigation, surveillance and air traffic management facilities and training,” he added.

He said, “the Nigerian domestic airlines are indebted to NAMA on Terminal Navigation Charges and Enroute Navigation Charges to the tune of N5,735,123,336.89 as of June 30, saying the domestic airlines were also indebted to NAMA on international operations to the tune of 9,086,401.78 dollars as of June 30”.

Pwajok said the agency might suspend the provision of its services to any airlines still owing if they refused to pay on time.

Capt. Rabiú Yadudu, the Managing Director, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), who also appealed to local airlines to pay off their debts to FAAN, said that the airlines owed FAAN N18 billion presently.

According to Yadudu, such debts will go a long way to improving the standards in the airports when paid and it will create comfort for the flying public.

FAAN boss, however, urged the AON to strengthen their collaboration with aviation agencies to collectively develop the industry.

“Sitting down to work together will



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rapidly help the growth of the aviation sector. No airline has ever come to FAAN and has been turned down by FAAN. We reason together.

“Collaboration is the way of the aviation industry. There is absolutely no reason to undermine one another. We need one another. We need to respect and protect each other” he said.

Responding, AON Vice President, Mr Allen Onyema, appealed to all domestic airlines that were indebted to any Aviation agencies to pay their debts.

Onyema, who is also the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Air Peace, further pleaded with the Aviation agencies to believe in airline operators as they were ready to work better with them.

AVIATION, PERMANENT SECRETARY ASSUMES DUTY

The newly deployed Permanent Secretary to the Federal Ministry of Aviation, Dr Emmanuel C. Meribole has assumed duty.

In his brief remarks during the taking over, Dr Meribole said, "I normally tell people that the Civil Service is the engine of governance and no matter the roadmap you have, without the Civil Service you won't be able to get there" He, therefore, solicited for the cooperation and support of the

management staff for a realization of a collective vision of progress in the Aviation sector.

The outgoing Permanent Secretary, Mr Abel Olumuyiwa Enitan commended the management staff for the wonderful support he has enjoyed from them over the past ten months he served in the Ministry. He said, "the journey has been exciting, systematically challenging and so stimulating in terms of experience".

He added, "I'm happy that I have

contributed my best to support the Hon. Minister who has done a lot to inspire us and together we modestly achieved things that the Ministry can be proud of". "I'm happy and grateful for the opportunity to have served in the Ministry of Aviation".

He further appealed to the Management staff to give the incoming Permanent Secretary their maximum cooperation, saying that in the environment of cordiality you tend to achieve a lot.





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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NiMeT COMMENCES EVALUATION OF 2022 SCP

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has begun the scientific evaluation of its 2022 Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP), the exercise is an annual event carried out by a task team constituted by NiMet Director General, Prof. Mansur Bako Matazu.

According to the Team Coordinator, Mr Haruna Zakari, the task team is mandated to evaluate the predicted onset period, the Little Dry Season based on the areas affected as well as extreme weather events recorded within the period of evaluation as well as the areas affected.

Zakari explained that at the end of the exercise, the team will be expected to submit a report of their findings to the DG adding that the objective of the report when completed was to strengthen early warning and help in reviews and updates every month and project for the future.

It would be recalled that NiMet presented the 2022 seasonal climate prediction to the general public on February 15th, 2022 at the NAF Conference Centre.



Director General NiMeT, Prof. Mansur Bako Matazu

NCAA BEGINS ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AUDIT OF DOMESTIC AIRLINES

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) said it has started carrying out economic and financial audits of eight domestic airlines in the country. Capt. Musa Nuhu, the Director-General, NCAA told the journalists in Lagos that the aim was to determine the health conditions of the airlines.

Declaring that the audit would be carried out in phases, Nuhu said the preliminary report from the exercise suggests that the carriers are not having safety challenges but only grappling with cost-related challenges which include difficulty in accessing foreign exchange at the official window and the increasing of cost of aviation fuel, which has made it difficult for them to cover the cost of operations.

The number of scheduled domestic operators went down last week to eight from 10, following the suspension of two airlines, Nuhu said that the regulatory body was already carrying out intensive financial and economic audits on three other indigenous airlines, while the remaining would be done in batches.

While Aero Contractors voluntarily suspended its operations, NCAA grounded the services of Dana Air

following its alleged failure to run safe operations." The remaining eight scheduled airlines are Air Peace, Arik Air, Max Air, Green Africa, United Nigeria, Overland, Azman Air and Ibom Air," he said.

The NCAA boss decried the current difficult operating environment for operators which was further escalated by the scarcity of foreign exchange and the high price of Jet A1. He, however, said that NCAA would not relegate safety to the background.

He said: "We are currently conducting financial and economic audits of airlines in the country. We have done two or three and other airlines will be taken in batches. I will discuss with the airline's management the way forward.

"As I said, we have a financial crisis and we don't want it to cross over into a safety crisis. We need to manage the situation.

"For now, we remain focused while working to address the solution to the financial difficulties in the airlines. This cannot go on forever. So, we are working round the clock to find a solution.

"Yes, it is a very difficult situation, but we are just going to do what we are doing. We are working together and



Director General NCAA,
Capt. Musa Nuhu

collaborating with others to address the situation in the industry.

The DG said that NCAA was doing its best to keep the industry safe. "Safety is paramount to us. Anything that affects safety will not be compromised whatsoever. It is better for the airlines to be shut down than to have a major incident," he said.

CAMEROON SEEKS AIB-N SUPPORT ON AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The Republic of Cameroon has sought the support of the Accident Investigative Bureau, Nigeria (AIB-N) in the investigation of an accident involving Havilland DHC 400 Twinotter aircraft that occurred on May 11, 2022, in Cameroon.

Mrs Essimi Dine, the Director of Civil Aviation of the Ministry of Transportation, Cameroon, who led the team to AIB-N headquarters in Abuja, said the support of AIB was necessary due to its advanced infrastructure for accident investigation.

She said the AIB-N would help to download and analyze information from the recorder of the aircraft, adding that the Republic of Cameroon would further collaborate with AIB-N, on capacity building in accident investigation and collaboration.

"We have come to see how AIB is doing things. What they can do in terms of equipment and infrastructure they have.

"Thanking you Mr Commissioner,

thank you, everybody. Thank you also for your warm welcome here in Nigeria. We appreciate the support of the AIB. We assure you that the cause of the accident will be resolved after our work here.

"We will further request other areas of collaboration. We really appreciate the support of AIB," she said.

Earlier, Mr Akin Olateru, the Commissioner of Accident Investigative Bureau, Nigeria (AIB-N), said the bureau was part of the investigation of the accident as Nigerians were on board.

According to him, two Nigerians as pilots and a Cameroonian operator were involved in the accident.

"But Cameroon has decided to seek assistance in terms of the investigation to help with; the download of the FPR and CBR, analysis of information and animation of how it happened.

"As you are aware, we have one of the best accident investigative laboratories in the world. We have the capability of getting information from the damaged recorder which the



aircraft came with.

"The aircraft came with a highly burned recorder. We will be able to retrieve information from it." he said. Olateru said the AIB-N had previously helped some African countries including; the Niger Republic, Gambia and Sierra Leone.

According to him, AIB-N has just gotten approval from the Ministry of Justice to sign an MOU with Sierra Leone to help them set up an Independent Accident Investigation Centre.

NIGERIA'S AVIATION SECTOR WORLD'S SAFEST - Olateru

Commissioner of Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), Akin Olateru, has said that Nigeria's airspace remains the safest in the world, as the country has had only three deaths in six years.

Speaking at the 26th annual conference of the League of Airport and Aviation Correspondents (LAAC) which was held in Lagos recently, Olateru said that despite the recent shutting down of two domestic airlines, all the Nigerian operators are safe and that no country can boast of such a feat.

He attributed the feat to the competence of the Aviation agencies, saying that they ensure that they do their jobs meticulously, while also revealing that most of the safety recommendations issued by the AIB have been implemented.

"Nigeria has the best safety records in the world. In the last six years, we have only lost three persons

unfortunately to a helicopter crash at Opebi but I don't know how many countries in the world can boast of such a record. How did that happen? It is not by luck or accident. It is because the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) is doing its job and the Accident Investigation Bureau doing its job, investigating incidents and issuing the right safety recommendations to prevent recurrence and at the end of the day, it is about everyone doing what they are supposed to do.

"Most of the safety recommendations that we have come up with after we release our reports have been implemented. Those issued to the aircraft manufacturer have been implemented, some to the regulator and some to the airport and some to NAMA and some to NiMeT and we have a system in place where we follow up and we have worked with the NCAA where we monitor those safety recommendations. There are

still some serious incidents that we are investigating and about three will be released in the coming weeks," Olateru said.



■ Mr Akin Olateru, the Commissioner of Accident Investigative Bureau, Nigeria (AIB-N),

NEW CIVIL AVIATION ACT TO STRENGTHEN NCAA AND DEVELOP AVIATION SECTOR

The newly signed Civil Aviation Act 2022 by Mr President would help strengthen the power of the NCAA as a regulatory agency, as it has removed encumbrance clauses that complicate the oversight function of the authority against the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) and the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN). The Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Captain Musa Nuhu has said. He said that since the enactment of the Civil Aviation Act 2006, there have been significant changes in the industry.

"We have had new annexes in ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation), new developments in terms of ICT, environments in the sector generally. In addition to that the service providers namely: NAMA and FAAN have some residual

regulatory functions in them and those regulatory functions have been removed and moved to NCAA as the regulator of the industry to avoid conflict of interest. You cannot provide service and also regulate some of the services you provide. Those are the main things that we have in the new Civil Aviation Act 2022.

Of course, other changes are with the view to have a much efficient, effective air transportation industry and to make sure Nigeria complies with the new ICAO standards, new Annexes and international best practices," he said.

President Muhammadu Buhari recently assented to Civil Aviation Act Bill. The Act repeals the Civil Aviation Act, No. 6, 2006 and enacts the Civil Aviation Act, 2022 to provide for an effective legal and institutional framework for the regulation of civil aviation in Nigeria in order to promote



Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority

aviation safety and security, ensure that Nigeria's obligations under international aviation agreements are implemented and consolidate the law relating to civil aviation regulation in Nigeria.

NiMet MEETS AVIATION STAKEHOLDERS

In line with the International best practices, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency, NiMet has separately held an Aviation Stakeholders Meeting at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja and Malam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA), the meets which were intended to interact with customers and get feedback on products and services offered by NiMet and use the feedback to enhance on the various products and services.

At Abuja Airport, the Director-General NiMet represented by the Head of the Quality Management System, Mr Abdulrahman Usman, said "As a matter of policy NiMet remains committed to upholding the safety standards in the aviation sector. This Periodic stakeholders' engagement besides being an ISO 9001:2015 Certification requirement, also serves as a veritable platform for us to interact with our aviation stakeholders (service takers) in a bid to sensitize as well as brainstorm on the issues raised by our customers". NiMet used the occasion to make presentations to stakeholders on



■ A group photograph at an aviation stakeholder meeting in Kano

weather-induced aviation hazards like thunderstorms, microbursts, wind shear etc. The event was attended by officials from FAAN, AIB, Nigeria Immigration Service, Skyjet etc.

While at MAKIA, Kano the meeting was held at the Hajj terminal. As part of the interaction, hazardous weather effects on aircraft and updates on the installation of equipment and instruments were also displayed. Present at the meeting in Kano includes the Director of Weather

Forecasting Services, DWFS, Engr, Yusuf Mailadi Abba, who represent the Director General, Prof. Mansur Bako Matazu, General Manager, Aeromet, Mr Ashaniya Taiwo, Head of QMS, Mr Usman Abdulrahman and QMS team member, Mr Ntati Gayus. Others include Regional Manager, Mr Yusuf Ado Ribah. Other stakeholders include; FAAN, Nigerian Immigration Service, NAHCO, NAMA, AIB, NCAA, ARIK Air, MAX Air, AZMAN Air, QATAR Air, and EGYPT Air, amongst others





MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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