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NIGERIA WILL SUSTAIN INVESTMENTS IN AVIATION SECURITY, SAFETY – PRESIDENT BUHARI



■ A high-level delegation led by HMA, Sen. Hadi Sirika (5th R) on a courtesy visit to President Muhammadu Buhari. Present is the Chief of Staff, Amb. Ibrahim Gambari (6th R) at the State House, Abuja. Prominent dignitaries in the team were ICAO President, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano (6th L); former ICAO President, Dr. Bernard Olumuyiwa Aliu (5th); DGCA, Captain Musa Shuaibu Nuhu (3rd L); Nigeria's rep. on ICAO Council, Engr. Mahmoud Ben Tukur (2nd L); AFCAC General Secretary, Ms. Olufunke Adeyemi (3rd R); first certified commercial pilot in Nigeria, Capt. Bob Hayes (4th L) and others.

President Muhammadu Buhari has said that Nigeria will sustain investments in aviation security and safety.

The President said that more investments will be deployed to the provision of infrastructure and facilities for safe, secure, environmentally friendly, and sustainable civil aviation.

He stated this when he received the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, at the State House.

According to the President, Nigeria will support the ideals and aspirations of ICAO and the achievement of its strategic objectives, in collaboration with the other Member States of the Organization.

“Nigeria became a member of the ICAO Council in 1962, and since then, it has continued to make valuable contributions to the Council's work and its activities.

“It is pertinent to also mention that Nigeria has been playing a key role in supporting the implementation of ICAO Policies and

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY: NIGERIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO ICAO'S IDEALS – SIRIKA

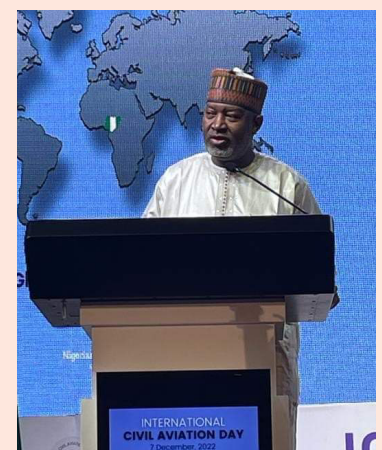
As the global aviation community comes together to celebrate the 2022 International Civil Aviation Day, Nigeria's Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika has restated the nation's commitment to the ideals of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

According to Sirika, the theme for this year International Civil Aviation Day 2022 which is, “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development” aligns with the belief of the Nigerian government that Aviation is a channel to

achieving the development of other sectors as it remains the fastest and safest mode of the domestic and international movement.

This belief, he says, has informed the Government's commitment to the development of the sector for which it developed a roadmap at the inception of the Buhari administration.

The implementation of the roadmap has led to several record-breaking achievements in the nation's aviation industry which have been variously acknowledged and applauded by ICAO.



■ Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika

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...NIGERIA WILL SUSTAIN INVESTMENTS IN AVIATION SECURITY, SAFETY

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Programmes internationally and particularly in the African region.

"To this end, Nigeria has ratified international air law instruments like the Montreal Protocol and amendments to some articles of the Chicago Convention. Nigeria is also championing the cause of Aviation safety, security, and facilitation in Africa," he said.

The President told the ICAO delegation that he has approved the establishment of Aerospace University in Abuja to cater to research and development as well as provide manpower for the industry.

"In this regard, Nigeria is looking forward to the continued support of ICAO under its 'No Country Left Behind' initiative," he added.

President Buhari also noted that the Nigerian Government has established independent agencies in order to enhance aviation safety and security while ensuring effective and efficient provision and management of infrastructure in all aspects of the industry.

"These include the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority for safety and economic oversight of the industry; the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency for air traffic services; the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria for management of Government-owned airports; the Nigerian Meteorological Agency for meteorological services; and the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, the nation's main aviation training organization, established in 1964 in collaboration with ICAO and the United Nations Development Programme.

"Nigeria is fully committed to working with other States and supports the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan, the Global Air Navigation Plan, as well as the Global Aviation Security Plan," the President said.

As part of its support, President Buhari said Nigeria, over time, seconded auditors to support various ICAO programmes in the areas of safety and security.

"We have also contributed experts on various ICAO technical panels, commissions, and working groups.



President Muhammadu Buhari presents a portrait to the Secretary-General of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Mr Juan Carlos Salazar while the Minister of Aviation looks on.

"The Government of Nigeria has adopted a civil aviation policy, which is centred on liberalization and Public-Private-Partnerships Initiative. These have resulted in huge investments in the nation's airport infrastructure and services, increased capacity utilization, and a phenomenal increase in the number of domestic operators. Indeed, domestic and international traffic has experienced tremendous growth since our assumption of office in 2015.

"Nigeria is the headquarters of the Regional Safety Oversight Organisation, the Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organization and also, a major contributor and participant in the Regional Accident Investigation Agency, the Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency," he added.

Recently, according to the President, Nigeria made a robust donation to the ICAO voluntary Air Transport Fund in order to be part of the Global efforts for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

"We have also made a significant financial contribution to the Safety and Human Resource Development Funds, in addition to hosting several ICAO meetings and regional workshops, including the widely acclaimed successful third ICAO World Aviation Forum, as well as several other workshops on safety

oversight," he said.

Also speaking at the event, Minister of Aviation, Hadi Abubakar Sirika, commended President Buhari for the giant strides taken under his administration in the areas of aviation safety, security, and development.

"Our profile improved significantly during your tenure, Mr. President. Passengers rose from 8 million to 18 million in four years, while security and safety also went up significantly," he said.

The ICAO Secretary General who was in Nigeria for the International Civil Aviation Negotiation (ICAN) event in Abuja, lauded what he calls "the leadership role Nigeria plays in civil aviation in Africa," saying the country's record is one of the most impressive in the world.

"The number of the airport has doubled, and passengers are growing despite COVID-19. The record of safety is the most important performance indicator of all. I recognize the excellent work by your government to maintain high standards, in line with international best practices," Salazar said.

Stressing that it's important to maintain the track record, the ICAO scribe stressed that there was no end line in civil aviation, "we keep chasing targets that go on and on."

He urged President Buhari to sustain the support being given to the sector, to attract further investment, tourism, and continued growth.

...INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY: NIGERIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO ICAO'S IDEALS

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"Globally, it is a well-known fact that aviation doubles every fifteen years but in the case of Nigeria, it has more than doubled and in another fifteen years, it will quadruple".

"According to the National Bureau of Statistics, aviation became the fastest growing sector of the economy pre-covid and during covid, the third fastest growing sector and after covid, according to Airport Council International, ACI, we are at 111% of pre-covid numbers. Apart from Colombia, we are the only country on earth that recovered so fast, and we have added even 11% of

pre-covid numbers".

These statistics, according to Senator Sirika, reinforce the continuous commitment of Nigeria to the ideals and aspirations of the International Civil Aviation Organization whose regulations have continued to guide the industry in ensuring the safety records that the country has established.

The Minister, on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, the government and the people of Nigeria, congratulates the President of the ICAO Council, Salvatore Siacchitano and members of the

global aviation community presently in Nigeria for the ICAN22 event on the Day and hopes that Nigeria will continue to have the privilege of hosting more ICAO events in the future.

The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States, and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.

NCAA SAYS NIGERIA READY TO LEAD AFRICA IN AVIATION

Nigeria is ready to lead other African countries in reshaping and rebuilding the aviation industry to boost the economy of the region.

Capt. Musa Nuhu, the Director-General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), made this known during his welcome address at the opening ceremony of the 14th International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation event in Abuja.

He said advancing the aviation sector will improve connectivity among member states, which can boost their social and economic activities like trade and tourism.

"Air travel shortens travel times between countries, thus improving global trade and tourism activities with the potential of accelerating the socio-economic growth and development of States," he stated.

Since the establishment of this unique global negotiation event by ICAO in 2008, ICAN events have provided participating States with a central congregating point to conduct bilateral, regional, or multilateral air services negotiations that result in Air Services Agreements between Member States.

"In addition, it provides a global stage for networking opportunities for policymakers, regulators, service providers and other industry stakeholders," he added.



■ Director General, Capt. Musa Nuhu of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) during his welcome address at the opening ceremony of the 14th International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation event in Abuja.

Nuhu said Nigeria will continue to support and advance the ideals and objectives of civil aviation particularly in the African region through the continuous support of and hosting of ICAO's programmes and events.

He expressed optimism that the agreements signed, the arrangements made, knowledge and ideas exchanged after the meeting would further facilitate the recovery of the industry from the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing better opportunities for enhanced regional and global air connectivity.

"Nigeria successfully hosted the 7th AFI Aviation Week event here in

Abuja in May of this year, with positive outcomes that would enhance the efficiency, safety, and security of air transportation in the region.

"At this juncture, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, and his team for the unflinching support during the preparations for the hosting of this ICAN event," he said.

The NCAA boss acknowledged the contributions and support of the aviation agencies towards ensuring a successful hosting of ICAN 2022 and the ICAO team and the local organizing committee for working tirelessly to put the event together.

NSIB, AIB-KSA SIGN MOU TO ENHANCE AVIATION SAFETY

The Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Accident Investigation Bureau of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (AIB-KSA) to enhance aviation safety in both countries.

According to the Director General of the NSIB, Engr. Akin Olateru, the MoU which was signed by both parties in Abuja will ensure cooperation and assistance in the field of civil aircraft accident and incident investigation.

He added that the cooperation agreement would also allow both parties to assist in the areas of investigation training and sharing information and expertise consistent with the standard and recommended practices of Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention.

"You have to understand that there is only one aviation in the world and the rule of the game is cooperation. No country is an island. We need to work together as a team to enhance safety. Yes, we are both established; we have the equipment and human capital but there are a lot of lessons we can learn from each other. It is all about improving the safety of the flying public," Olateru said.

In his remarks, the Director-General,



■ L-R, DG, NCAA, Capt. Musa Nuhu, DG, AIB-KSA, Abdulelah O. Felemban, Director of Engineering, Engr Muhammed Wali, DG, NSIB, Engr. Akin Olateru, Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, during the MoU signing between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.

AIB-KSA, Abdulelah Felemban, said: "We are here in Nigeria to sign an MoU with our counterpart on an executive cooperation programme to promote aviation safety. There are a lot of lessons to be learnt from the accident investigation. The benefit for both of us is that we get to learn from each other, exchange information and exchange knowledge".

The MoU signing ceremony, which was witnessed by the Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, took place alongside the International Conference on Air Negotiations

(ICAN) 2022 hosted by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), in partnership with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The NSIB, under its previous name, Accident Investigation Bureau Nigeria (AIB-N), signed international agreements with safety bureaus of France, Sao-Tome and Principe, Sierra-Leone and the Benin Republic.

Also, the bureau signed local agreements with the Nigerian Airforce, the University of Lagos and the University of Ilorin.

DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND SEYCHELLES SOON, AS BOTH COUNTRIES SIGN BASA

Following the approval of the Federal Executive Council of the Memorandum on signing and ratification of the Air Service Agreement between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Seychelles, the two countries have formally ratified the Agreement.

Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika using the platform of the ongoing International Civil Aviation Negotiation (ICAN) event held in Abuja, led officials of the Ministry to sign the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) while the Republic of Seychelles Minister of Transport, Mr. Anthony Derjacques,

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■ Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika uses the platform of the International Civil Aviation Negotiation (ICAN) event held in Abuja, led officials of the Ministry to sign the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) with the Republic of Seychelles, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Anthony Derjacques, signed on behalf of his country.



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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FG REVISES COVID-19 TRAVEL PROTOCOL

The Federal Government, through the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), has announced a revised COVID-19 travel protocol for air passengers, with the wearing of facemasks deemed no longer mandatory.

This announcement was contained in a letter signed by the Director-General of NCAA, Capt. Musa Nuhu to all aviation service providers, dated December 12, 2022, with Ref: NCAA/DG/AIR/1 1/16/358, titled "Revised COVID-19 Public Health guidelines for all aviation service providers (domestic and international operations)".

The prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria and most parts of the world has remained at a low level for a sustained period. The Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19 (PSC) has, therefore, revised the COVID-19/ public health guidelines as follows:

"For domestic operations, the wearing of facemasks inside the airport terminal buildings and onboard aircraft by airport workers, passengers and crew members is no longer mandatory. Wearing facemasks by passengers onboard aircraft or inside airport terminal buildings is discretionary but recommended.

"Persons aged 60 years and above, immunocompromised (e.g., due to organ transplant, cancer, etc), those with co-morbidities (e.g., heart disease, diabetes mellitus,

hypertension, etc), are advised to use facemasks, wash their hands with water and soap, use hand alcohol-based sanitisers and avoid large gatherings.

"Disinfection of bags at the entrance of terminal buildings is no longer required.

"Airlines are, therefore, required to resume serving catering (meals and drinks) onboard aircraft.

"Maintaining social distancing at airport terminal buildings is no longer mandatory. "Facilities and conveyances are advised to maintain good environmental hygiene, good ventilation, and encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene," the letter said.

It advised that the use of alcohol-based sanitiser by passengers and airport workers is recommended. Boarding and disembarkation protocols are to be maintained.

For international operations, it said: "All requirements in 'A' above shall apply.

"Pre-departure and post-arrival COVID-19 PCR tests are no longer required for all passengers, irrespective of vaccination status. PCR tests required for all passengers who are partially/not fully vaccinated have been suspended.

"Permission to travel/ QR code is no longer required. A simplified health questionnaire form (non-COVID-19 specific) shall be completed by all passengers travelling to Nigeria, preferably pre-departure on the Nigerian International Travel Portal



(NITP).

"Passengers who fail to fill the health questionnaire on the NITP pre-departure will be required to fill the health questionnaire either onboard the aircraft before landing or at the airport terminal building upon arrival.

"All other COVID-19 quarantine/travel requirements are hereby made optional.

"This AOL supersedes previous AOLs issued on COVID-19 for domestic and international operations," the letter outlined.

It further called on all "aviation service providers to comply with the above requirements", warning that non-compliance by any aviation service provider with this AOL "shall attract appropriate sanctions" and finished with "This AOL shall be effective immediately".

...DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND SEYCHELLES SOON, AS BOTH COUNTRIES SIGN BASA

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signed on behalf of his country. During the ceremony, the two Ministers underscored the importance of the BASA as it will promote air services and connectivity between both countries, enhance business, and promote tourism. They both agreed that the signing would further promote the African

Union Agenda 2063 and called on citizens of both countries to latch on to the opportunities of the BASA for their mutual benefit.

Meanwhile, the Federal Ministry of Aviation has either signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and initial Air Services Agreement (ASA) with Senegal,

Benin Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Finland, Cameroon, Morocco, Suriname, India, Sudan and Uganda. The Ministry has also had discussions on how to further implement the open skies Agreement, signed 30 years ago, with the United States of America.

NSIB SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH NAVY ON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nigerian Navy to enhance mutual efforts in the prevention and mitigation of accidents and serious incidents in the country's transportation sector.

According to the Director-General of the NSIB, formerly known as the Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), Engr. Akin Olateru, the MoU, which was signed at the Nigerian Navy Headquarters, Abuja, would enhance efforts towards the initiation and implementation of effective plans at the vicinity of accidents and serious incidents.

The signing of the MoU would benefit the Bureau in the area of safety, research, capacity building, diving, search and rescue, retrieval of Flight Data Recorders (FDR) in the maritime environment, data analysis and for assistance in the conduct of investigations on Naval platforms.

The Director General of the Bureau further stated that: "This MoU is coming at the right time we need the Navy most. We would need to come up with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on how we can strengthen this relationship. It is not about signing the document, there is a lot of work to be done."

While appreciating the Nigerian Navy for making the agreement happen, the Director General disclosed that the mandate of the NSIB is to investigate accidents and serious incidents that occur in all modes of transportation.

He said the signing of the agreement between NSIB and the Nigerian Navy is in line with the global practice of inter-agency partnership between the civil air accident investigation agencies and the military to promote air safety, adding that it is also a response by the Bureau to the Federal Government's call for synergies among agencies of government for good service delivery.

"All over the world the military partners with the civil to achieve a set objective, as this is not peculiar to Nigeria. The benefits of any strategic

collaboration of government institutions are for the common good of the country, Olateru said.

Speaking, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Auwal Zubairu Gambo said that the MoU gives credence to the directives of President Muhammadu Buhari on inter-agency collaboration aimed at enhancing National Security, adding that "The Nigerian Navy, by this MoU, will benefit from the resources provided by the NSIB while the NSIB in a like manner will benefit from utilizing resources provided by the Nigerian Navy".

Vice Admiral Gambo who was represented by Rear Admiral Suleiman Seidu, the Chief of Policy and Plans reiterated that the MoU, which seeks to support the parties in safety, research, training, capacity building and deployment of other incidental services beneficial to the discharge of its mandate, will also avail the Nigerian Navy with requisite skills and expertise and use of the NSIB's laboratory for accident investigation, among others.

The Naval boss while pledging to exercise the required leadership in attaining optimal standards in accident prevention and mitigation, also implored the NSIB to continue to assist in maintaining appropriate standards on accident prevention

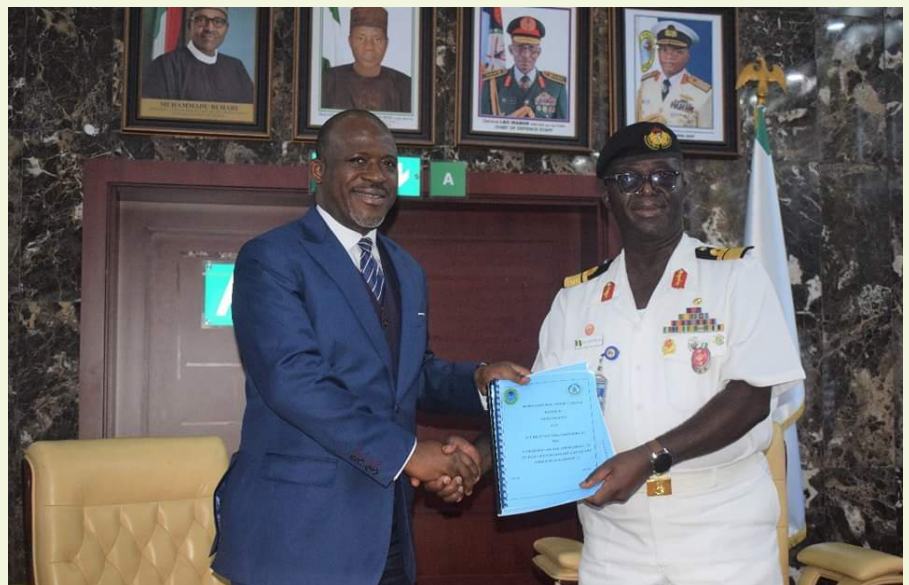
and mitigation.

The MoU was signed by Engr. Olateru for NSIB and Rear Admiral Perry Uwazulike, the Chief of Naval Standards and Safety for the Nigerian Navy.

Olateru used the occasion to disclose that AIB as Nigeria's accident investigating body is currently transiting to the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) following the repeal of the Civil Aviation Act 2006 and has been replaced by NSIB (Establishment) Act 2022 by the Federal Government, which empowers the Bureau to investigate, not only air accidents but civil, maritime, rail and other modes of transportation networks for improved safety in accordance with the global practice.

"The accident Investigators are separated from Regulators. This is the practice today all over the world," said the NSIB boss.

He expressed the Bureau's readiness to partner with the Nigerian Navy to ensure that both agencies reap the full benefits of the collaboration even as he urged the Nigerian Navy to take advantage of the Bureau's well-equipped Safety Laboratory to achieve the mandate and the statutory function of both institutions, as the need arises in keeping with the MoU objectives.



■ L-R: Engr. Akin Olateru, Director General, Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau, NSIB; Rear Admiral Perry Uwazulike, Chief of Naval Standards and Safety after the signing of MoU between NSIB and the Nigerian Navy in Abuja.




MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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