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FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION TO PARTNER WITH NILE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA ABUJA FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN CIVIL AVIATION



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika receives a souvenir from the Vice Chancellor of the Nile University of Nigeria Abuja, Prof. Dilli Dogo during the Minister's courtesy visit to the University.

Federal Ministry of Aviation to partner with the Nile University of Nigeria for research and development in Civil Aviation as well as on Curriculum for the take-off of the African Aviation & Aerospace University (AAAU).

The Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika revealed this when he led a delegation to

the Nile University of Nigeria Abuja and who was received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dilli Dogo, saying the Ministry was willing to work together to create a curriculum for the Pan African Aviation University.

Sirika, further stated that the visit was to

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FG INVITES THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARGO/AGRO-ALLIED TERMINALS IN THE COUNTRY

Haven identified the development of the Cargo/Agro-allied Terminal as one of the priority projects for the renaissance of the aviation sector, The Federal Government through the Ministry of Aviation invites interested firms and a consortium of firms to participate in the qualification process for the selection of partners through a bidding process for the development of Cargo/Agro-allied terminals across

the country.

The terminals' locations are strategically selected across the country, including Kebbi, Plateaus, Katsina, Cross River, Edo, Ondo and Adamawa state.

The statement explained that the overall objective of the selection process would be the successful procurement of concessionaires technically and financially capable to design, build, finance, operate, maintain and transfer the terminals



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...FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION TO PARTNER WITH NILE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA ABUJA FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN CIVIL AVIATION

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■ Hon. Minister of Aviation with his team, Vice-Chancellor and official of the Nile University of Nigeria in a group photograph

advance the negotiations for a collaboration agreement between Nile University and the government-proposed African Aviation & Aerospace University (AAAU). {This visit was the second of an earlier delegation led by Captain Gabriel Tilmann in March}. He said.

According to the Minister, the government specifically chose Nile University for this partnership initiative because it has earned high praise from both the Federal Ministry of Education and the Nigerian

Universities Commission (NUC) for its first-rate facilities and ability to impact world-class knowledge, saying that the government-sponsored aerospace institution was established to address the shortage of workforce and training gap currently affecting the nation's civil aviation industry, and the only way to close that gap locally is through partnerships with a critical school like Nile University.

In response, the Vice Chancellor of Nile University Prof. Dilli Dogo said

the Institution is committed to working with the Ministry and the government to ensure that the goal of establishing the aviation university to address the nation's aviation challenges is actualized.

The VC explained that the institution's membership in the Honoris United Universities Network, the first and largest pan-African private higher education network, is largely responsible for the high praise it receives today despite its short period of establishment.

...FG INVITES THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARGO/AGRO-ALLIED TERMINALS IN THE COUNTRY

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within the concession period for the optimal benefit of the country.

The statement further added that the request for qualification is the qualification stage of the procurement process for the project and interested firms/consortia are expected to meet the qualification

requirements specified in the request package and only qualified parties shall be invited to the request for proposal stage.

Interested firms or consortiums are to check the Nigeria aviation public-private partnership project website <http://www.nigerianaviationpppproje>

ct.com for more clarification of the process. Responses must be submitted not later than 12th September 2022 to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation, Abuja.

NIMET RECEIVES QUALITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (ISO) FOR AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (Nimet) has been awarded the quality management services ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 29990: 2010 for aeronautical meteorology services at the airports and capacity building at its regional training centre in Lagos. The certification award, which is valid for one year, follows the successful completion of the 2022 maintenance audit process.

Presenting the ISO certifications to the Minister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika, the Director General of Nimet, Professor Mansur Matazu said the certification will promote the relevance and visibility of the agency in Nigeria, and Nigeria in the international community.

He told the minister that “the International Standard Organization (ISO) requires that all services providers and training institutions in the world should subject themselves to periodic auditing to qualify for issuance of the appropriate certificate. This is to ensure effectiveness and excellence in the quality of service rendered to all relevant clients”.

“Based on that Nimet invited ISO through CERTECH for the certification exercise by subjecting its service across the nation's airports and regional training centre in Lagos



■ Director General of Nimet, Prof. Mansur Matazu presents ISO certificates to the Hon. Minister of Aviation

to a rigorous audit process,” he said. The Director-General appreciated the Minister and the Federal Government for providing the resources, guidance and support that enabled the agency to successfully attain the certification.

He pledged that with continuous support, the agency will remain committed to achieving excellent service delivery.

Reacting, the Minister congratulated the agency for the great feat it has achieved.

He said the credit for the achievement goes to the present

administration that provided all the support needed resources to Nimet to ensure effective service delivery and well-trained meteorologists as well as meteorological technicians.

Sirika promised to formally present the awards, and those won by other agencies of the Ministry, to President Muhammadu Buhari at a convenient time.

According to him, the planned presentation to the President is to appreciate his unalloyed support for the Aviation sector and to know that the support has been yielding dividends.

NIGERIA AIR: FG APPROVES LEASE OF 3 AIRCRAFT

The process for the establishment of a new national carrier, Nigeria Air, got a boost with the Federal Government approving the lease of three aircraft for initial operations.

According to the approval by the Federal Government, the national carrier would begin operations with domestic routes the aircraft to be procured from Airbus and Boeing

Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, made the disclosure while briefing journalists after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Sirika announced that the airline would begin with domestic routes and then expands to regional and intercontinental routes. He was not specific with the actual date for the take-off of the airline operations.

On the likely date for the commencement of operations, Sirika said “We will announce commencement soon.”



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika



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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PHOTO STORY

The Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika with his team and the Vice-Chancellor Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja Prof. Dilli Dogo inspect facilities at the University in preparation for a partnership with the University in the area of research and development in Civil Aviation.



NCAA SUSPENDS DANA AIRLINES OPERATIONS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has suspended Dana Airlines' Air Transport License (ATL) and Air Operator Certificate (AOC) indefinitely, with effect from midnight of Wednesday, 20th July, 2022.

The suspension was made pursuant to Section 35(2), 3(b) and (4) of the Civil Aviation Act, 2006 and Part 1.3.3.3(a)(1) of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations (Nig.CARs), 2015.

The suspension order which was signed by the Director General, Captain Musa Nuhu, has since been communicated to the management of Dana Airlines.

DG NCAA said that the decision was the outcome of a financial and economic health audit carried out on the Airline by the Authority, and the findings of an investigation conducted on the Airline's flight



■ Director General NCAA, Captain Musa Nuhu

operations recently, which revealed that Dana Airlines was no longer in a position to meet its financial obligations and to conduct safe flight operations.

He said NCAA acknowledged the

negative effect this preemptive decision will have on the Airline's passengers and the travelling public and seeks their understanding, as the safety of flight operations takes priority over all other considerations.

FG INITIATES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) STAGE OF THE NIGERIA AIRPORTS CONCESSIONS PROGRAMME (NACP) ...hosts Bidders Conference.

The Federal Ministry of Aviation, in line with the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2005, and global best practice, hereby informs all stakeholders, local and international, development partners, and members of the media, that the Request for Proposals (RfP) phase of the Nigeria Airport Concessions programme (NACP), commenced on the 1st of June. Shortlisted bidders have since been notified in writing and via the transaction portal (<http://www.nacp.aviation.gov.ng/>).

The RfP stage of the programme will close on the 5th of September 2022. All shortlisted bidders are thus encouraged to ensure that they make their submissions on time and as per the detailed guidelines included in the bidders' package.

Speaking to members of the media on the eve of the NACP bidders conference, before embarking on a stakeholders tour of notable international airports in Brazil and

Turkey, the Honourable Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika expressed his confidence in driving a transparent and robust concession programme to competition before the end of the year.

"We are delighted to inform all stakeholders and indeed, all Nigerians, that a critical milestone in this programme has now been reached. We anticipate that the programme, including the final negotiations stage, will be concluded before the end of the year, thereby allowing for the affected assets to be handed over to the absolute best private sector operators well before this administration hands over to a new, duly elected government".

The bidder's conference, hosted by the Federal Ministry of Aviation and the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission – the substantive regulator for all infrastructure concessions in Nigeria, took place on the 20th of June 2022 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja and marks a critical milestone in the

process of concession Nigeria's four international airports and associated assets, comprised specifically of passenger and cargo terminals. Delegates of preferred bidders flew into Nigeria from no fewer than four countries, with the majority joining online via the NACP's virtual conferencing facility.

Speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Aviation Abel Enitan added, "We are delighted to see this level of genuine interest in Nigeria's infrastructure concession programmes and in particular this airports concession programme. As the global aviation industry recovers, this level of interest Nigeria enjoys from emerging market investors, is a testament to the sheer scale of opportunity Nigeria offers long-term investors who share a positive vision of the nation's future. We wish all bidders well as they conduct their due diligence and prepare competitive bids for the various assets."

ADEFUNKE ADEYEMI ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF AFCAC

The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) announced the election of Nigerian Ms. Adefunke Adeyemi as the new Secretary General of the Commission.

"The Bureau and the Secretariat of AFCAC have the honor to inform AFCAC member States, International Organizations, States Partners and all aviation and affiliated Stakeholders that Ms. Adefunke Adeyemi has been elected the new Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)"

Ms. Adeyemi's election as the new Secretary General of AFCAC was announced at the 34th AFCAC Plenary in Dakar, Senegal. The new AFCAC Secretary-General takes over from the former Secretary General, Mr. Tefera Mekonnen TEFERRA whose tenure ended in January 2022, following which Ms. Angeline Simana steered AFCAC as Interim Secretary General.

Adeyemi remarked shortly after her election that her objective is to build on the progress already made by previous Secretaries General and teams of AFCAC to see a new dawn for change through positive action for AFCAC and African aviation.

"The vision for African aviation is to enable a fully connected, prosperous and united Africa. We have made so much progress and we must stay the course and build on the current momentum to strengthen existing partnerships and create new mutually beneficial relationships. We are stronger together and I am fully committed to collaboration, multilateralism and fostering cooperation with all States, partners and relevant stakeholders to move African aviation forward."

With an international career spanning over 20 years, Adefunke began her career as a practising lawyer in Nigeria and then as Company Secretary and General Counsel to Virgin Nigeria Airways before joining the International Air Transport Association (IATA) where she has worked in different roles over the last 12 years. In her current role as Regional Director, External Affairs and Sustainability for Africa, she advocates for the sustainability of air

Up until her appointment, Ms. Adeyemi has been the IATA focal point for the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and a Private Sector Champion of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA)...

transport, trade, tourism and business across the region, highlighting its positive socioeconomic impact and value as strategic enablers and accelerators of development and growth across Africa and beyond.

Up until her appointment, Ms. Adeyemi has been the IATA focal point for the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and a Private Sector Champion of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA), two strategic policy initiatives of the African Union designed to promote intra-African connectivity and trade to secure Africa's integration and prosperity.

"We must all work together to tackle the challenges that African aviation has faced and harness the opportunities that abound to translate Africa's aviation potential into reality. The time is now. Africa must fully connect, for its survival and prosperity. Civil aviation must continue to focus on its core areas and also work much closer with the tourism and trade sectors. This synergy, which must be intentional, will ensure that African aviation survives, grows and thrives for the benefit of Africa and its citizens", Adeyemi said.

Ms. Adeyemi is a lawyer and advocate, with extensive experience in regional and global strategy and policy development. She is also a global air transport and trade facilitation expert, focused on driving value, policy reform, best practices



■ Ms Adefunke Adeyemi, Secretary General, AFCAC

and international standards to air transport and related sectors, businesses and government. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B. Hons) from the University of Lagos, a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Nanyang Business School, Singapore in collaboration with Wharton Business School, Philadelphia and Berkeley Hass Business School, California. The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) is the specialized agency of the African Union mandated to oversee matters related to civil aviation across Africa. AFCAC is also expressly tasked as Executing Agency with facilitating, coordinating and ensuring the successful implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision/Single Africa Air Transport Market (SAATM) to liberalize Africa's air transport industry. It supervises and manages initiatives aimed at improving Safety, Security, Environment, Human Resources Development, Aviation Training, Aviation Financing, Infrastructure development in the air and on the ground), and much more.

MINISTER MEETS WITH AIRLINE OPERATORS OF NIGERIA OVER AVIATION FUEL (JET A1)

The Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika has said the energy crises in the aviation industry is real and it is global. The Minister stated this at an emergency meeting with the Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) in his office concerning the aviation fuel crisis (Jet A1) upsetting the aviation industry in the country.

Sirika said there is no short-term solution because of the variables involved especially since it is a global problem. "It is aggravating in Nigeria because we don't produce the product. It's aggravated also because the foreign exchange is scarce in Nigeria because the source of earning the foreign exchange also has dwindled" he explained.

He reiterated that the Federal Government had in the past sourced 10,000 metric tonnes of Aviation Fuel for the airlines adding that the government is willing to do more. "As we speak, the government is in the process of finding a permanent solution to this issue" he assured.

Some of the solutions he said include, "importation of the product at the appropriate price, accelerating the refurbishment of our refineries and also wait for the coming on stream of Dangote Refinery to boost the supply of the product."

He also said he will meet with relevant stakeholders including the CBN so the airlines can access



■ Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika together with the President of Airline Operators of Nigeria, Abdulmunaf Yunusa Sarina during the emergency meeting in the Minister's office

dollars at the official market rate rather than the black-market rate.

The President of AON, Alh. Abdulmunaf Yunusa Sarina, in his comment, said the aviation fuel crisis began from N180 per litre and now it's at N1000 per litre.

He also said the Forex crisis is a huge burden on the industry.

"The rate at which the dollar is escalating now is very alarming. Every day, a difference between 10-15 Naira is added to the parallel market. Weeks ago, it was N610 but today, it is N670 to one dollar" he

“ The rate at which the dollar is escalating now is very alarming. Every day, a difference between 10-15 Naira is added to the parallel market. Weeks ago, it was N610 but today, it is N670 to one dollar

said. He called on the Minister to intervene.

Also commenting, Mr. Allen Oyeama, the Vice President, AON, said the AON was satisfied with the government intervention in the industry. "We, the airline operators are satisfied with the approach the government is bringing to the table. I told you Mr. President in order to alleviate our suffering approved 10,000MT of fuel. Another 5,000 has come in. We are about to start accessing that. We are pleased with the approach for the long run" he said.

He also agreed that the solution is not in the short term. "It is not easy to give a timeline to issues like this because the challenge is global. Even American airlines are threatened too. It's not only Nigeria. But we are pleased so far" he said.



■ Aviation Minister with Airline Operators of Nigeria during the meeting





MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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