



Uganda Civil Aviation Authority

ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION AND UPGRADE TAKES ROOT



Impressions of the planned new terminal and Cargo Centre.

The Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is marking 25 years of existence in July 2016. CAA was formed to revamp, direct and regulate the dilapidated air transport industry in 1991. The aviation industry has a direct effect on import/export volumes, tourism and the general national economy as it provides a direct link to the country with the outside world.

Samuel Sanya spoke to Ignie Igunduura, the Manager Public Affairs at the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about the aviation industry and the master plan for development of airports and aerodromes in Uganda.

Q. Entebbe International Airport has been branded to highlight Uganda as a Gorilla country. Why was this necessary and has it paid off?

The background to the branding is that international air travel is linked to international tourism. Uganda is increasingly associated with tourist attractions especially wildlife. We are relating air travel to tourism as a means of promoting the industry and what better place to do it than at the first port of call by air, Entebbe International Airport.

Besides, one of our secondary objectives is to support the growth of tourism in this country. If you visit the aerodromes of Kidepo, Kasese, Pakuba and Kisoro; they are located in or around national parks which supports our objective to support tourism in the country.



Dr. Rama Makuza, CAA's Managing Director

Gorillas are very rare species giving Uganda a competitive advantage in the world and in the region. Gorillas are habituated only in Uganda, Rwanda and DR Congo. This is the reason we decided to brand the airport with Gorilla images.

Growth of air travel globally is dictated by many factors especially performance of the global and national economy. If the economy is on the down turn, chances are passenger numbers to Uganda will drop. The state of the airport; its technology, equipment, passenger facilities and personnel who handle the facilities also

play an important role in ensuring that we have more in-flows.

Equally important is the fact that we are getting to a time when East Africa is seen as one market with a single tourism visa. So it is important that the region is stable and attractive to tourists.

On traveler numbers.....

Since 2007 we have seen between 5%-6% annual growth in passenger numbers. This means that the CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) gave good visibility to the country. Since we successfully hosted the meeting here, CHOGM has acted as a spring board for more international meetings in Uganda.

Passenger numbers to Entebbe International Airport went up by 7% in 2015 to 1.51 million, up from 1.4 million in 2014 due to more tourist arrivals and an increase in the number of participants at international conferences and meetings in Uganda.

However, there was a 3.4% drop in passenger traffic compared to 2013 due to the Ebola pandemic in West Africa. We are in a global village. When people in the west hear of Ebola in one part of Africa, they think it is everywhere from Mombasa to Lagos due to international news networks like Sky news, CNN.