

CAA unveils innovations

By Benon Ojiambo

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has unveiled many innovations to enhance efficiency in the aviation industry.

Among the innovations and developments is the implementation of the Electronic Terrain Obstacle Data (ETOD), which offers the digital representation of terrain and obstacles provided as datasets satisfying user requirements for a series of airborne and ground application, such as round Proximity Warning Systems (GPWS) and Automatic Weather Observation Systems (AWOS).

A terrain dataset is a digital representation of the elevation of the terrain at a number of discrete points. Major features of a terrain database include geometric distribution or position of discrete points, horizontal/vertical datum and specific units of measurement.

"This is intended to facilitate performance-based navigation and to enable aircrafts fly at their preferred profiles without limitations by obstacles," Ignie Igundura, CAA's manager for public affairs, told the *New Vision* in



The revamped arrivals lounge at Entebbe International Airport

an email.

The agency has also implemented the Mode Radar Surveillance Systems, which provide enhanced surveillance capabilities and reduction of Controller/Pilot workload.

Among other new innovations is the automation of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Aeronautical

Information Management Operations through implementation of Automatic Terminal Information Systems (ATIS), Safety Nets and AWOS.

CAA has also introduced the Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU) in order to achieve a globally Inter-Operable Air Navigation

System, so as to provide seamless services.

All the changes are meant to enhance efficiency in service delivery, as well as keeping clients updated on the latest developments in technological advancements, according to Igundura.

During a visit to Israel, President Yoweri Museveni

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pledged to turn the old control tower at Entebbe International Airport into an aviation museum and tourist site.

While meeting members of the Netanyahu family, Museveni announced that the only remaining structure of the old Entebbe airport, the control tower, would be turned into a museum to commemorate Operation Thunderbolt, later renamed "Operation Yoni".

Yoni Netanyahu, the elder brother of Benjamin Netanyahu, the current Israel Prime Minister, was commander of the 1976 raid.

During the operation, 248 passengers and 12 crew members who had been held hostage after Air France

flight 139 was hijacked by the The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and German terror cells, were rescued from Entebbe International Airport.

Early this year, during the 40th anniversary of the raid, Netanyahu promised financial support towards the establishment of the museum.

The museum would be dedicated both to the operation itself and to the worldwide fight against terror.

In 2005, Museveni and Netanyahu dedicated a memorial plaque at the control tower.

The old Entebbe Airport's unused terminal and control tower will be both a tourist site and a monument to "the historical impact the raid had on the country," an official from the Civil Aviation Authority has confirmed.

At the time of the raid, a new airport was being built and the government immediately shut down the old one, which has gone unused. It still features bullet holes and has been overrun with vines and weeds.

"There is a proposal to transform the control tower at the old Airport into an aviation museum, a project whose details are yet to be finalised," said Igundura.