# AMATONNEWS

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## AVIATION MINISTER COMMENDS GOVERNOR OBIANO ON ANAMBRA CARGO AIRPORT



The Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika receiving a letter of invitation from the Governor of Anambra State HE Willie Obiano in his office

viation Minister Senator Hadi Sirika has commended the Anambra State government for embarking on a cargo airport project that will positively impact on the economic development of the state and the South East region as a whole. The Minister who made the commendation when he received the Governor of Anambra State, Chief Willie Obiano in his office, said the Federal Ministry of Aviation and its agencies will always give the necessary guide and

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## NIGERIA GRANTS APPROVAL FOR EMIRATES AIRLINES TO OPERATE

B ased on the undertaking by the authorities of the United Arabs Emirates (UAE) the Nigerian government has agreed to lift the ban placed on Emirates Airlines from operating into and out of the country.

According to the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, the commencement of the airline's operations would however depend on the commencement of visa issuance by the UAE.

"UAE has written to state that they agree to issue visas to Nigerians, consequently



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#### ... AVIATION MINISTER COMMENDS GOVERNOR OBIANO ON ANAMBRA CARGO AIRPORT

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cooperation to states embarking on such projects in order to ensure that all internationally set standards are met.

According to Sirika, airports can be viable if they are built with specific objectives in mind and expressed the belief that the Anambra airport will be successful in serving the interests of the trading population of the state and environs.

He advised the Governor to sustain the ongoing collaboration with the regulatory authorities to ensure that all regulations and guidelines for the construction and operation of airports are met.

Earlier, Governor Willie Obiano had

said that Anambra International Cargo Airport, located at Umueri will be ready for commissioning in April 2021 and that the state would be honoured to have him perform the task.

"We are sure of the date because we have the money to compete it. We are not asking for any assistance, neither are we taking any loans. I am here personally to brief you on the project and to invite you to commission it for us in April 2021"

Obiano told the Minister that the decision to embark on the airport project was informed by the need to cater for the economic interests of the state and its environs.

The airport, he said, has the second longest runway in the country, after the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos, built with the best available materials, with a guaranteed lifespan of 100 years.

"The airport is just a few kilometres from Onitsha town, the economic nerve centre of the south east region. It is strategically located and is a worthwhile investment."

According to the Governor, the construction of the airport has been guided by recommendations and guidelines of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) as it hopes to meet the best international standards.



The Hon, Minister of Aviation, Sen, Hadi Sirika, Anambra State Governor HE Willie Obiano and other officials at the Government House. Awka



The Hon. Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, Anambra State Governor HE Willie Obiano and other officials at the Government House, Awka

#### ...NIGERIA GRANTS APPROVAL FOR EMIRATES AIRLINES TO OPERATE

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decision has been reached to allow Emirates to fly into Nigeria. Commencement of the Visa issuance is condition precedent. Please bear with this unusual situation."

The Minister appreciates the understanding of everyone who has been negatively affected by the

recent policy decisions which forbade some airlines from operating into the country when Nigeria reopened its air space to international flights.

The decisions, he said, were taken to protect the interests of the nation and its citizens who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, same Nigeria treats other nationals.

It will be recalled that Emirates Airlines was initially given approval to operate into the country, an approval which was withdrawn following the inability of Nigerians to obtain/use valid tourist visas to enter the UAE.





## AIB SEEKS STAKEHOLDERS' COOPERATION ON AIR ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

he Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), has called on stakeholders both within and outside the aviation sector to work together with it in a bid to ensure thorough investigation and timely publication of reports of air accidents. Engr. Akin Olateru, Commissioner at the Bureau, who made the call at a Regional Enlightenment Symposium held in Enugu, said safety is a collective responsibility and accident investigation process cannot be done alone. According to him, the Bureau has entered into agreement with some Agencies and countries as part of efforts at raising its profile and to up the ante of safety.

"The Bureau, under the current administration is focused on engendering relationships, which would facilitate excellence and enduring world-class standards in the investigation and prevention of air accidents in Nigeria.

"Collaboration is about creating a working relationship. For anybody to want to collaborate with you, first of all, you need to be in a position to add value. What we have done at AIB, is that we have raised the profile of the Bureau and built that trust within the industry that we are unbiased. That we are professionals, focused and that we are clear on our mandate.

"This has prompted some institutions wanting to partner with AIB. France, on their own, wrote to us asking for collaboration and we have signed an MoU with them. Saudi Arabia also wrote to us and if not for the COVID-19 pandemic, we would have gone to Saudi Arabia to sign an MoU with them.

"BAGAIA (Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency), a regional body, has also reached out because they really want to use AIB Nigeria to support the entire West Africa. This is ongoing, we have a world class Flight Safety Laboratory in Abuja and they want us to showcase the laboratory. Before the end of this year (2020), there is going to be a training for all accident investigators in the region to showcase our laboratory. he said. Represented by Tunji Oketunbi, General manager, Public Affairs of



AIB, he disclosed that the Bureau also recently signed an MoU with the Nigerian Air Force on collaboration on mutual benefits.

This collaboration, he said will save the Air Force some money in terms of fund it allocates to downloading its Flight Data Recorders, commonly known as Black boxes abroad following an air crash.

"For AIB, the collaboration will benefit us in terms of accessing remote crash sites faster and easily since the Air Force has helicopters that can transport our investigators.

"We are currently seeking collaboration with security and emergency agencies across the country in terms of security of evidences at crash sites"

"We have a strong collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps and we have trained their personnel and security personnel from the Nigerian Police Force, the Nigerian Army, the Nigerian Air Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps on air disaster management. This is aimed at ensuring that evidences at crash sites are not tampered with"

"Tertiary institutions in Nigeria are not left out in our collaborative efforts as AIB has MoUs with the University of llorin (UNILORIN), and University of Lagos (UNILAG) on the use of its material science laboratory. "Also, as part of its cooperation agreement with UNILAG, the Bureau's investigators were recently trained on the use of drones as part of accident investigation technique at the UNILAG Consult Building", he added.

He disclosed further that AIB success story has really impressed not only agencies in the country but other nations, adding that 'South Africa asked their consultant to come and examine how we are doing it: what is it we are doing that is different, in order to see what they can replicate into their own operations.

He said the current administration of the Bureau has also engaged in international collaborations and cooperation agreements with several countries and institutions such as Republic of Benin, US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Singapore Transport Safety Investigation Bureau (TSIB), Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile (BEA-France) and UK AAIB.

"So, as you can see, the Bureau is doing a lot in terms of cooperation and collaboration with the aim of improving safety in the industry and ensuring that accident investigations are effectively and efficiently carried out successfully. "We are continuously looking for ways to improve our system at AIB because safety is a collective responsibility even as learning and gaining knowledge is a continuous process. And we will like to share knowledge and also learn as we expand our scope if possible."

"Expanding our scope and ensuring

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#### ... AIB SEEKS STAKEHOLDERS' COOPERATION ON AIR ACCIDENT **INVESTIGATION**

that we have investigators across the Geo-political zones in Nigeria in order to have a go-team that will be dispatched timely to crash sites in any zone is very important to aircraft accident investigation and air safety in Nigeria.

That is why we have established regional offices across the country. In case of any occurrences within this region (Southern-Eastern), our competent investigators will be swiftly dispatched to the site of occurrence after being duly notified.

"We therefore seek the cooperation

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and support of all industry stakeholders. As I said earlier, safety is a collective responsibility and accident investigation process cannot be done alone; the airlines, regulatory bodies, aircraft manufacturers, Air Traffic Controllers, first responders i.e Police, Federal Safety Corps (FRSC), Civil Defense, everyone who is a stakeholder in the industry needs to work hand in hand with the Bureau in order to ensure thorough investigations are conducted and the reports timely published.

"Safety is the backbone of aviation and without it aviation loses its meaning. This is why every organ or unit in the industry works tirelessly to ensure the safety of air travelers. Until recently, the Nigerian aviation industry had no fatality for about five years. "I would like to assure air travelers that the aviation industry is not daunted in its commitment to achieve zero accident in the industry. The AIB, on its part will not relent in its vigorous pursuit of adding values that will up the ante of safety in Nigeria and Africa", he explained.

## **NCAT RESUMES PHASED TRAINING AFTER COVID-19** LOCKDOWN

he Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), has resumed phased training after COVID 19 lockdown, following the approval its obtained from the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for the resumption of training activities.

A statement by the College management said: "It commences phased resumption of training activities from Monday, 12th October 2020 with enhanced safety and training measures in line with it's COVID-19 Prevention/Control Procedures Manual".

To ensure maximum safety and comfort of trainees at the College, some precautions and measures, it said, were adopted to prevent the spread and transmission of COVID-19 virus. Such precautions and measures include: Development of COVID-19 Prevention/Control Procedures Manual (NCOVID-19PM) in line with the recommendations of the NCAA. NBTE, Federal Ministry of Health, and WHO;

Regular, well-supervised, and documented cleaning and disinfection of aircraft, simulators, trainers, training equipment, classrooms, briefing rooms, aircraft hangars, hostels, cafeteria and other training facilities in strict compliance with the NCOVID-19PM and NCDC recommendations;

Health Screenings of all students on arrival at the College's Aeromedical Center; Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all trainees and staff as well as enforcing the mandatory use of face masks during training and in public spaces; Provision of Handwashing and Hand sanitizing points at multiple locations within the College premises;

Fixing of Signages at strategic locations in the College to sensitize staff and trainees about the prevention and control of COVID-19: Rearrangement of seats in classrooms, workshops, laboratories, cafeteria and other training facilities to ensure physical distancing of 2m. Each classroom is currently arrange to accommodate half of its normal capacity;

Labelling of seats to ensure social distancing in Lecture Theater, offices, common rooms, laboratories, workshops and hangars; Conduct of Online HSE training with the emphasis on COVID-19 Prevention/control for all trainees before resumption.

NCAT with the vision of maintaining the prestigious position of the foremost aviation training institution



training for excellence **SINCE 1964** 

in Africa and amongst the best in the world has consistently for over 55 years provided the aviation industry with professionals and other personnel through training and related services for safe air transportation by international standards.

The College is an NCAA Approved Training Organization and designated as a Regional Training Center of Excellence by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It is also accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to offer National and Higher National Diploma Courses.





## NIGERIA SIGNS THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF BASA

he Hon. Minister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika has announced that Nigeria has signed the instruments of ratification of the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) with the United States of America, India, Morocco and Rwanda. The Minister announced it on his Twitter handle staying that:

"I am glad to announce that Mr. President, on behalf of Nigeria, has

signed the instruments of ratification of the bilateral air service agreement between Nigeria and USA, India, Morocco as well as Rwanda."



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## FG READY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ANY SERIOUS AVIATION INVESTORS - HADI SIRIKA

inister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika has said the Federal Government through the Ministry of Aviation is always ready to provide support and enabling environment to those willing to invest in civil aviation. The Minister stated this when he inspected aviation facilities at the Caverton Helicopters headquarters in Lagos. The facilities include the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) being established by the organisation and a newly acquired Simulator for the training of pilots.

Hadi Sirika who was at the facility at the instance of Caverton Helicopters said "I am here to see the investment they are making in the aviation industry"

He said, "as one of the primary objectives of government is providing full support to entrepreneurs to provide the needed services and employment for our people, and this is exactly what is happening here at Caverton Helicopters, I am willing to continue to support Caverton and other investors in civil aviation".

The Minister emphasised that the Ministry under his leadership is reorienting civil aviation bodies who are regulators to shift the focus of being police in the industry to being an enabler in the industry to create that partnership that will help to develop the industry and provide the



Minister of Aviation inspecting one of the taxiway constructed by Caverton helicopters at Murtala Muhammad International Airport, Lagos

service and employment for our people to kick start the economy and ginger it as well as to add to the GDP of the country.

Hadi Sirika added that these investments in Civil Aviation by Caverton Helicopters will certainly create more employment opportunities for the people and provide services that are needed in the country.

He further stated that, before now, the Aviation industry and services were dominated by foreigners, and that for Caverton Helicopters to embark on the massive investments, it is not only bridging the gap but creating a space for Nigeria to participate.

"I will like to thank the Chairman of Caverton Helicopters for their foresight and decision to participate in the civil aviation industry, they have done so far very well," the Minister said.

Hadi Sirika said, "for the FAAN which in its wisdom provided the parcel of the land, I think they have done well, we are also proud of them as this will add to their revenue and activities within the airport".

The Caverton Group Chairman, Chief Aderemi Makanjuola thanked the Minister for coming and his kind words as well as advice for all that needed to get things right, adding that with the guidance of the Agencies under the Ministry, Caverton has so far got it right and are proud of that.

He said the invite to the Minister to visit the facility was premised on his involvement from the beginning, and to reassure him of Caverton's commitment to partnering with the Ministry to achieve its developmental objectives.

The Managing Director the Caverton Helicopters, Rotimi Makanjuola said

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Inspection of MRO by the Minister and his team



#### ...FG READY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ANY SERIOUS AVIATION INVESTORS

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apart of ensuring employment opportunity to the Nigerians, the facility will also ensure capacity development and stop capital flight. "We know other industry participants spend millions of dollars flying out their pilots for capacity training in various simulators all around the world".

He explained that Caverton has an annual budget of over \$3 million

spent for flying pilots to various facilities in Dubai, USA, Europe for training.

He also said there were no many Helicopter training facilities around the world, so for Nigeria in Africa to have one will going to bring in a lot of capital inflow to the country.

The Minister also inspected the Taxiway B under construction at the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos

and met with the management of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) during which he commended the commitment and passion of the staff to duty during the lockdown and Airport reopening occasioned by the covid-19 pandemic.

He reiterated that all steps being taken to develop the aviation industry are all in the overall interest of the nation.



L-R: The MD Caverton Mr. Rotimi Makanjuola; DG NCAA Nuhu Musa; MD FAAN Rabiu Yadudu; Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika; Chairman Caverton; Aderemi Makanjuola; COOSG Mr. Bode Makanjuola in a group photograph after touring Caverton Helicopters' facilities in Lagos.



Minister of aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika touring the facilities with Chairman Caverton Helicopters Mr. Aderemi Makanjuola at MMI, Lagos

## FAAN DISRUPTS AIRLINES' OPERATIONS OVER DEBTS

he Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has recently disrupted the operations of airlines indebted to the agency by delaying the operations of two airlines at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport. Abuja. FAAN officials closed the counters of the two airlines during check in and it was after prolonged pleading by the domestic carriers that the agency allowed them to airlift their passengers for the flight. Mrs. Henrietta Yakubu, Spokesman for FAAN confirmed the development said, the agency was on a revenue drive at the Abuja airport. A FAAN official said the agency had to recover its debts in order to sustain its operations, pay its workers in order to continue to provide services to airlines and other airport users.It learnt that the agency intends to extend the disruption to other airports until it is able to recover the debts

owed it by the operators. An Experts in the industry observed that the airlines should have envisaged that the agency must seek for their revenue and should have made provision for that in their financials but also noted that FAAN and the airlines should have negotiated for the payment part of the debts, knowing that it has not been easy for the airlines and the airport managers due to economic downturn occasioned by the COVID-19 lockdown and the aftermath.



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## NCAA REVIEWS INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

he Nigerian Civil Aviation authority has updated the schedules of international flights with effect from 2nd October 2020 as the maximum of 200 passengers are allowed per flight. In a letter addressed to all foreign airline operators flying to Nigeria, NCAA explained that the update followed the request for additional flight frequencies by the airlines. The letter also drawn the attention of the airlines to ensure full compliance with COVID 19 health protocol as issued by Aeronautical and public health authorities.



#### Updated International Flight Schedule LAGOS (LOS) ABUJA (ABV) Monday Delta, Turkish, Virgin, Atlantic, Qatar, BA, ASKY, Turkish, Air Cote d'ivoire, BA, Ethiopian, Kenya Airways, Rwanda Air, Ethiopian, AWA Rwanda Air, AWA X 2, ASKY, Air Cote d'ivoire Tuesday BA, Delta, Egypt Air, Ethiopian, BA, Ethiopian, Turkish, Egypt Air, Qatar, Turkish, Virgin Atlantic, MEA. ASKY, AWA Air Cote d'ivoire, AWA X 2, ASKY Delta, Ethiopian, Kenya Airways, Wednesday BA, Ethiopian, ASKY, Turkish, Air MEA, Qatar, BA, Turkish, Virgin Cote d'ivoire, AWA, Rwanda Air Atlantic, Rwanda Air, AWA X 2, ASKY, Air Cote d'ivoire Thursday BA, Delta, Egypt Air, Virgin Atlantic BA, Egypt Air, AWA, Ethiopian, Ethiopian, Qatar, Turkish, AWA X 2, Turkish, Air Cote d'ivoire, Egypt Air ASKY, Air Cote d'ivoire Friday Turkish, MEA, Rwanda Air, Qatar, BA, Ethiopian, ASKY, MEA, Rwanda BA, Virgin Atlantic, Ethiopian, ASKY, Air, Turkish, AWA AWA X 2, Air Cote d'ivoire Saturday BA, Delta, Qatar, Ethiopian, MEA, BA, Egypt Air, Ethiopian, AWA, MEA, Rwanda Air, Turkish, Virgin Atlantic, Turkish, ASKY Egypt Air, Kenya Airways, AWA X 2. ASKY, Air Cote d'ivoire Sunday Delta, Virgin Atlantic, Turkish, Qatar, BA, Ethiopian, Rwanda Air, Turkish, Rwanda Air, BA, Ethiopian, Egypt Air Cote d'ivoire, Egypt Air, ASKY,

#### Notes:

- I. Effective Friday 2nd October 2020
- II. Maximum of 200 passengers per flight

Air, AWA X 2, ASK, Air Cote d'ivoire

Til 02 October 2020

Captain Musa Nuhu Director General/CEO



AWA

## **REVIEW OF AVIATION LAWS:** HOUSE COMMITTEE POSTPONE PUBLIC HEARING

h e H o u s e o f Representatives Committee on Aviation has postponed indefinitely, its three-day public hearing on six Civil Aviation Bills, that was slated to begin on Tuesday 20th October 2020 due to continued protest in some part of the country.

A statement signed by the Chairman, Hon. Nnolim Nnaji said the "the postponement was necessitated by the continued #EndSARS protests which have remained unabated".

He also cited "the logistics concerns raised by most of the stakeholders expected to attend the public hearing as part of the reasons for the decision to put the programme on hold".

Nnaji disclosed that he had been inundated with telephone calls all day by stakeholders claiming that they had been unable to access the Lagos Airport to catch their flights to Abuja.

Honourable Nnaji said. The public hearing on the six executive Bills were earlier scheduled to commence on Tuesday, October 20 to 22, 2020 at House wing of the National Assembly Complex, Abuja". He, however, said, "a new date will be announced soon". "We regret the inconveniences this sudden shift might have caused every interested party".

The House of Representatives Committee on Aviation was supposed to begin a process of amending the Civil Aviation Acts with a three-day public hearing on the six executive bills brought to the National Assembly.

The bills are seeking to amend certain aspects of the Acts establishing the six agencies being superintended by the Ministry of Aviation. The agencies include – the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, (NCAA), Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, (FAAN), Nigerian Airspace Management Agency, (NAMA), Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, (NCAT) Zaria, Air Accident Investigation Bureau, (AIB) and Nigerian Meteorological Agency, (NIMET).

Earlier, the Chairman House of Representatives Committee on

Aviation, Nnaji, had said that aviation as a dynamic industry requires constant review of enabling status to ensure that the country keeps to standard. "I understand that the last review was done about fourteen years ago (2006) and I can tell you that within this period a lot of changes has happened globally and this must have necessitated the proposed review from the Executive arm," he said.

Nnaji, therefore appealed to the "critical stakeholders and the members of the public especially the frequent air travellers/ aviation community to make time to either attend or send well-articulated memoranda that will guide the legislators in amending the Acts".

According to him, the amendment "would engender robust debate and discussions that will at the end of the day prepare grounds for qualitative amendment Bills that will reposition the country's air transport sector for a greater future".



Chairman House Committee on Aviation, Honorable Nnolim Nnaji and other members of the Committee during an inspection visit to the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).



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## **BUDGET DEFENCE:** SIRIKA SAYS NATIONAL CARRIER REMAINS FG PRIORITY

irika, has given an assurance of the Federal Government's commitment to its roadmap for the aviation sector in 2021 with the establishment of a National Carrier its priority.

Sirika who gave the assurance to the Senate Committee on Aviation during 2021 budget defence session on Tuesday at the National Assembly, said the roadmap would be implemented through Public Private Partnership (PPP), with special attention to the national carrier.

"In 2021, the sum of N78.960 billion is being proposed for capital expenditure at the headquarters in the Aviation Ministry and the emphasis will focus on the implementation of the aviation roadmap by Mr. President.

"The roadmap would be implemented through Public Private Partnership, topmost of which will be the establishment of National Carrier." He listed other projects to be executed as spelt out in the road map to include the establishment of a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRC) facility, development of Agro -Allied Cargo Infrastructure, establishment of Aviation Leasing Company, Search and Rescue Unit and Establishment of Aerospace University with the support of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

On the National Carrier, the Minister stressed that all required agreements and arrangements with other



Chairman Senate Committee on Aviation, Smart Adeyemi, Sen. Bala Ibn NaAllah at budget defence.

partners, have been worked out, making 2021 as the year, the plan that has been in the pipeline, will get practical actualization.

"This government right from inception in 2015, has been planning and strategizing on how to resuscitate National Carrier for Nigeria as far as global air transportation is concerned; the plan going by what is on the ground now, will be actualised next year through the PPP arrangement.

The Minister added that aviation is the fastest growing sector of the Nigerian economy despite the setback suffered from the COVID -19 pandemic.

The Federal Government has said that going by recent developments in the aviation sector, especially with most states of the Federation establishing their own airports, the number of airports in the country may double by the year 2023. The states are Benue, Ekiti, Nasarawa, Yobe, Anambra and others. He added that apart from other ones taken over by the Federal Government like Gombe, Kebbi, Dutse, Zuru airports.

He, however, said that safety and security are more of important issues to them in the aviation sector than establishment of new airports.

"Safety and security issues first before any other thing in the aviation sector, the reason efforts are being made to put some of the airports with issues of failing infrastructure in good shape.

In the light of this, airports such as Minna, Ilorin, Makurdi, complained of, are being attended to".

The Senate Committee on Aviation had earlier frowned at the state of disrepair, of Ilorin, Minna and Makurdi airports.

The Committee Chairman, Senator Smart Adeyemi requested also the Minister to ensure the upgrade of the Ajaokuta Airstrip and if possible establishment of Lokoja Airport.



 Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika with Permanent Secretary, Engr. Hassan Musa at 2021 Budget defence



DG NiMet, Sani Abubakar Mashi; Commissioner/CEO AIB, Akin Olateru; MD FAAN, Rabiu Hamisu Yadudu and Director of Finance FAAN at 2021 budget defence at National Assembly.

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## **THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION** 1183 MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT LAGOS Ter John W T-BINDELT. FEDERAL MINISTRY OF The Mandalarty DEL INT AVIATION and the state of the second states of the second st DITE (IP ID A) The pilling 前后 的复数

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