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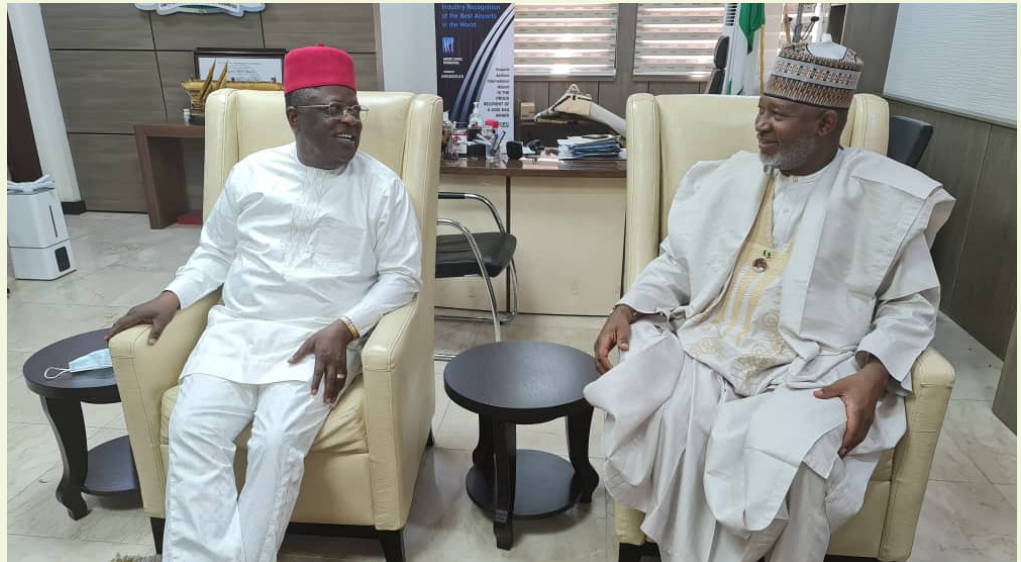
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## SIRIKA COMMENDS GOVERNOR UMAHI ON EBONYI AIRPORT PROJECT



■ L-R The Hon. Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika with the Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency David Umahi when he paid the Minister a courtesy visit in his office in Abuja.

**M**inister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika has described the Ebonyi State airport project as a worthwhile one that will open up the state to both domestic and international investments.

Senator Sirika who asserted this while receiving the governor in his office described Governor Umahi's decision to

build the airport as one of courage and foresight, believing that the airport is guaranteed to expose the state's agricultural potential to the international market. He told Governor Umahi that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has, since its inception, embarked on creating an enabling environment for the

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## AIB-N SYNERGIZES WITH NCAT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AVIATION PROJECT

**C**onsidering the global challenges facing the aviation industry that requires tremendous innovation and dedication, the Accident Investigation Bureau, Nigeria (AIB-N) and the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria (NCAT) have reaffirmed their synergy in the area of capacity development and other aviation industry projects.

The commissioner, AIB-N, Mr. Akin Olateru, disclosed this during a

courtesy visit by the rector of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria, Capt. Alkali Modibbo and his management team at AIB's corporate head office in Abuja. Both aviation agencies also discussed areas of mutual benefits and collaboration that will further improve aviation safety and development.

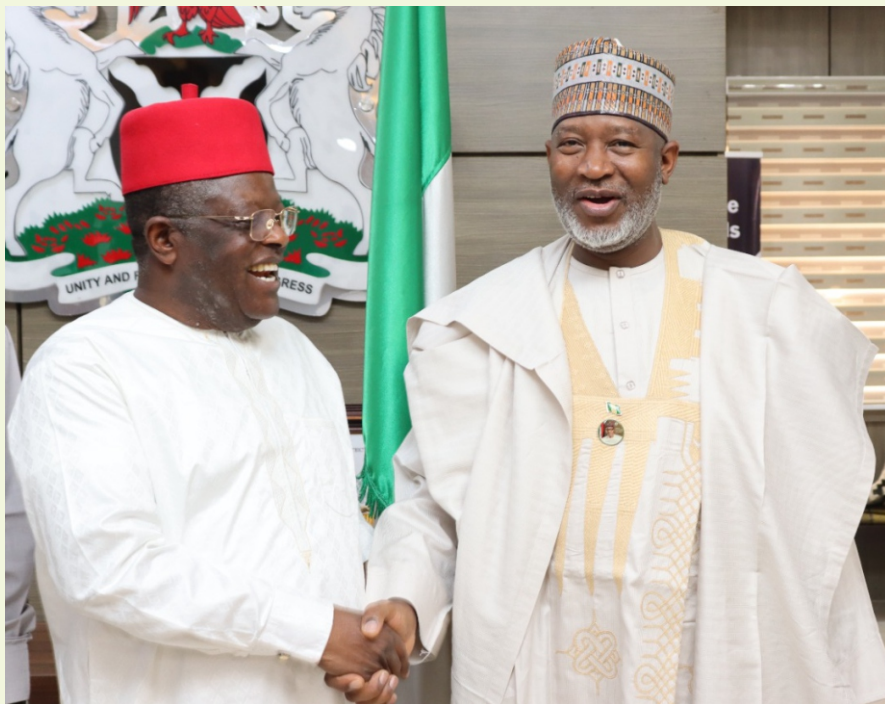
"The AIB-N training centre located close to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Abuja is about 90 per cent completed and should be ready at about the third

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## ...SIRIKA COMMENDS GOVERNOR UMAHI ON EBONYI AIRPORT PROJECT

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■ L: David Umahi, Ebonyi State Governor and R: Senator Hadi Sirika, Minister of Aviation.

expansion of the aviation industry in Nigeria which has been severally acknowledged by the global aviation community.

The Minister also gave the assurance that the Ministry of Aviation will do whatever is required to bring the project to fruition, considering the prospects for employment generation. Earlier, Governor Umahi had briefed the Minister on the progress of the airport project and said he remained committed to its successful completion, considering the expected benefits to the people of the state.

He expressed the appreciation of the state to the Federal Government, especially the Aviation Minister, for the encouragement and support in seeing the project to its present stage, assuring Senator Sirika that the airport, when completed, will meet all industry requirements.

## ...AIB-N SYNERGIZES WITH NCAT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AVIATION PROJECT

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quarter of 2022.

"AIB is setting up a training school which is the first of its kind in the history of Africa. It is a welcome initiative. We have been talking to NCAT and other great institutions across the world which teaches aircraft accident investigation courses. We have worked on a curriculum and we will revisit that because the training school is about 90 per cent completed.

"The essence of the facility is to deepen training as AIB-N prioritises manpower development adding that the NCAT visit will deepen their collaboration on training," Olateru said.

He urged the NCAT to create a platform for training all non-technical personnel of the aviation industry on an aviation awareness appreciation programme.

"This visit is in the spirit of collaboration. Training is extremely important in any organisation and that is what makes the organisation grow.

"Training is what has been central to what we do. So far, in the AIB, we have

trained 48 of our staff at NCAT. Before the end of this year, we will be training 16 of our staff to have a private pilot license (PPL). The programme begins on February 14 this year. So far, we have trained 17 of our aircraft engineers at NCAT. We are currently having nine of our staff on students' review.

"We have trained two of our air traffic controllers and two dispatchers at NCAT. Recently, one of the new units we set up, the Command and Control Centre, also had seven staff trained on radiotelephony. So, it is a partnership that is growing," he stated.

Olateru tasked the states and Federal Government to sponsor students in NCAT as they used to do, adding that this would enable children from poor backgrounds to benefit from NCAT's training services.

In his remarks, the NCAT rector, Capt. Moddibo Mahmud, said it is significant that continuous synergy is maintained among associate agencies, considering the global challenges facing the



■ The Commissioner/CEO, AIB-N, Engr. Akin Olateru in a handshake with the Rector of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria, Capt. Alkali Modibbo when he paid him a courtesy visit at Bureau Head Office in Abuja

## ...AIB-N SYNERGIZES WITH NCAT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AVIATION PROJECT

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aviation industry that requires tremendous innovation and dedication.

According to him, the AIB-N's commitment to acquiring modern facilities and manpower development resonates positively with NCAT, just as he hailed the NCAT for re-equipping to

remain at the forefront in aviation education.

Moddibo appreciated the synergy between both agencies in the area of capacity development and pleaded for more patronage from AIB-N.

"The efforts being made by the aviation college to enhance security on its

campus is impressive and commendable. So far, more than 40-armed security operatives have been deployed to man the institution's security system. The Kaduna State and the Federal Government are working hard to ensure adequate security in the area," he added.

## NAMA GETS ACTING MD: MATHEW PWAJOK

**T**he Federal Government has approved the appointment of Matthew Pwajok as the acting Managing Director of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA). The appointment came after the tenure expiration of NAMA MD, Fola Akinkuotu on January 2022.

Pwajok was a former director of operations at NAMA, who retired in December 2021. The appointment of Pwajok was conveyed in a letter dated January 12, 2022, from the Federal Ministry of Aviation and addressed to the immediate past NAMA director.

"I am directed to inform you that the honourable minister has approved

that Pwajok Mathew Lawrence, Director of Operations, oversee the Office of the Managing Director/ CEO pending the appointment of a substantive MD/CEO," the letter reads.

"You are to kindly accord the director all the necessary support and cooperation he needs while overseeing the office. While thanking you for your usual cooperation, please accept the esteem regards of the honourable minister."

NAMA was established to develop airspace infrastructure to meet the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). The agency

provides air navigation services to ensure safe and efficient flight operations.



Matthew Pwajok, Ag. Managing Director, Nigeria Airspace Management Agency.

## OSGoF, NAMA TO PRODUCE MAPS FOR AIR TRAVEL

**T**he Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGoF) and Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) have concluded an arrangement aimed at producing various charts that will enhance the safety and security of air travel in the country.

The Surveyor General of the Federation, Abuduganiyu Adebomehin, stated this during a meeting with the agency in Abuja, explaining that the plan is a national project that makes maps and other instruments available for the industry.

Adebomehin stressed the need for the surveyors and the technical staff of the agency to work together to produce charts and maps that would guarantee the safety and security of aircraft as well as their passengers, provide geospatial

services to the citizens.

Also, speaking, the NAMA Deputy General Manager, Asifat Badmus, said the apex surveying and mapping institution would always be required to supply the basic ones to positioning air traffic for better services.

"The Visual Flight Rules (VFR) are important for the safety of lives and flights hence the VFR inform charts to guide, provide directions, locations and to quickly identify hills and mountains, bodies of water and other physical features for easy navigation". He explained.

Badmus said the importance of charts and maps for air travel could not be overemphasized, stating that the OSGoF as the apex surveying and mapping institution of the country, would always be required to provide

the base and positioning for better air traffic services.

According to him, there is a need to update topographical maps and charts, as well as data from them to function and help NAMA to produce charts that would meet the International Civil Aviation (ICAO) standards.





# 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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## MINISTER PLEDGES TO WORK WITH UNIONS TO ACHIEVE AIRPORTS CONCESSION

**T**he Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, says he will work with the existing trade unions in the ministry to completely actualize the concession of four international airports in the nation. Sirika made the declaration on Thursday, in Abuja at the workers and stakeholders' sensitization conference organised by the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Council (JCNC). JCNC is the amalgamation of four existing trade unions in the Ministry of Aviation. Sirika, who was represented by the Director of Human Resources in the ministry, Mr Dogo Mohammed, described the unions as partners in progress through mutual understanding. According to him, the proposed major airports are Murtala Muhammad International Airport Lagos; Port Harcourt International Airport; Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano; and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

Sirika said the concession, which could last for 20 to 30 years and was extendable on the grounds of good performance, would involve only the non-aeronautical assets of the airports. He affirmed that the project would be essentially public-private partnerships (PPPs), with the Federal Aviation Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) still in control of the aeronautical operations. According to him, it will be difficult for the ministry to achieve its mandates without the contribution of existing unions. "That is why we are progressing because we work hand-in-hand with our unions. Part of the mandate is to ensure that the aviation industry achieves the global feat. In achieving that we cannot do without the unions. "I have a passion for unionism. I was once one of them. That is why the ministry is progressing. We will work with the union to fully actualize our process of concession of four

international airports," he said.

According to him, the process of concession is on and may fully come to maturity before the end of this administration. He added that the current administration would not come to an end without ensuring the mandate of the ministry was achieved.

Sirika urged other leaders in various levels not to dissociate themselves from the unions in their sectors to achieve a lot. "As a politician, you are to deliver the gains of democracy, working with unions will fast-track the realization of this move. I listen to them when they call," he added.

The minister urged all Aviation workers to be more creative and take the step to improve themselves on digitalization for better outputs.

Earlier, the JCNC Chairman, Mr Nnadi Hector, commended the entire leadership of the Ministry of Aviation for the respect and responses the

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## ...MINISTER PLEDGES TO WORK WITH UNIONS TO ACHIEVE AIRPORTS CONCESSION

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unions enjoyed from the ministry. According to him, the theme of the conference is "Workers as strategic Partners in Driving the Automation Processes and Personnel Management System in the Aviation Sector."

He pointed out that the outcome of the conference would assist the staff of aviation to be more focused on digitalization as a new norm. "There is a new norm and that is digitalization. I think it is part of the

roadmap of the current administration in the communication sector. Of course, aviation cannot be left out of it.

"Now, personnel automation is something we must get into. We cannot continue in the old way. There will come a time where workers, who perhaps, are not disposed to these new norms, will certainly become redundant.

"We will not want that in the aviation sector. So, our job as a union is not

only to fight but also to prevent actions that are not palatable to our workers. "This is sensitization on workers about what we call personnel management automation, it is a global trend."

The papers presented were on National Economy and Strategy by Prof. Basset Steven and Workers as strategic partners in driving the automation process and personnel management in the aviation sector by Dr. Edward Rotimi.



■ JCNC Chairman, Mr Nnadi Hector addressing the participants.



■ Director of Human Resources in the Ministry, Mr Dogo Mohammed reading the message of Hon Minister.

## AIB-N REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT WITH NAF FOR SAFER AIR SPACE

**A**ccident Investigation Bureau Nigeria (AIB-N), in its drive to ensure sustainable cooperation with relevant authorities for safe airspace in Nigeria, has reiterated its commitment to maintaining partnership and institutional collaboration with the Nigerian Airforce (NAF).

The Commissioner / Chief Executive Officer of the Bureau, Engr. Akin Olateru, who made this known while receiving the newly appointed Abuja Military Airport Commandant, Group Capt. B. A. Usman at the Bureau's Head Office in Abuja, stated that the NAF has the Bureau's full support and cooperation in ensuring safer airspace in Nigeria.

Olateru disclosed that AIB-N, as a government agency, has a strong relationship with the NAF, which was sealed with a pact between the two government establishments. "AIB-N cannot do it alone. A strong collaboration must exist among relevant agencies to ensure the continuous safety of the Nigerian air space," the Commissioner said.

While soliciting for the Bureau's support, Group Capt. Usman disclosed that his team is seeking ways to consolidate the existing synergy between the agencies to ensure maximum safety and security within and outside the airports' environment. The Commandant further urged the Bureau not to hesitate to call NAF in times of distress, assuring the Bureau of readiness of a rapid response at all times.



■ The Commissioner / CEO AIB-N, Engr. Akin Olateru receiving the newly appointed Abuja Military Airport Commandant, Group Capt. B. A. Usman at the Bureau's Head Office in Abuja

## FAAN PLANS EXPANSION OF ZULU TERMINAL GAT, LAGOS

**F**ederal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has announced plans to expand the Zulu wing of the General Aviation Terminal, Murtala Muhammed Airport Lagos. According to the airport managers, the expansion project, which will commence any moment from now, will only hamper passenger facilitation minimally at the terminal, but is all part of efforts to improve infrastructure and service delivery. While appealing to passengers and other airport users to please be patient and bear with it, FAAN said "The expansion project, which will commence any moment from now, will only hamper passenger facilitation minimally at the terminal, as normal passenger check-in will not

be affected in any way. However, the Protocol and VIP lounge at the terminal will be affected, as the facilities will be relocated temporarily till the end of the project, since major construction works will be carried out in that axis of the terminal.

"Meanwhile, the Authority is already making arrangements for temporary spaces to be used as Protocol and VIP lounges, while the project is being executed.

"When the expansion project is completed, the terminal would have been enhanced in terms of capacity, aesthetics and passenger comfort, as the expected and expanded new lounges will be twice what is presently on the ground.



Managing Director of FAAN,  
Captain Rabi'u Yadudu

**“ Meanwhile, the Authority is already making arrangements for temporary spaces to be used as Protocol and VIP lounges, while the project is being executed**



## WHY ICAO AUDIT IS CRITICAL TO THE GROWTH OF AVIATION SECTOR – DG NCAA

**T**he Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority NCAA has said the forthcoming International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) slated for the first quarter of 2022 is critical to the development of the country's aviation industry as it affords ICAO the opportunity to assess the effective implementation of critical elements (CEs) of a safety oversight system in the country.

The global aviation regulatory authority will conduct a systematic and objective review of Nigeria's safety oversight system to verify the status of its compliance with the provisions of the ICAO Convention. Director-General of NCAA, Captain Musa Nuhu elucidated that the exercise is not the same as Annexes 9 and 17 of the international body that deals with facilitation and adherence to Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) concerning the security of international air transport. He explained that security had its own separate audit, stressing that Nigeria performed well in the last security audit conducted in the sector by ICAO.

According to the DG, at the last ICAO Security Audit (USOAP-CMA) of Nigeria – the Effective Implementation (EI), Nigeria Scored 96.4 per cent and the country

received ICAO Council President Award Certificate for its performance. He disclosed that the USOAP-CMA Audit (security audit) is now scheduled for the third quarter of 2022, stressing that NCAA's aspirational Effective Implementation (EI) score for the USOAP-CMA Audit is 90 per cent.

He said: 'NCAA will step up its oversight function and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders to ensure continued improvement in aviation security and facilitation. Security Audit is different from a safety audit. What we are doing now

is quite different from security audit and it's not related to facilitation. I understand facilitation is good for passengers, but it has nothing to do with the current audit.'

According to him, the NCAA was on top of its game to ensure a successful outing for Nigeria in the ICAO audit. He added that its proactive approach and robust regulations had led to the over eight years of zero accidents in commercial flight operation in Nigeria and vowed that the regulatory agency would continue to ensure excellent performance for the country.



Director-General, NCAA Capt. Musa Nuhu

## NIGERIA HELPS SIERRA LEONE TO ESTABLISH ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AGENCY

**T**he Accident Investigation Bureau, Nigeria (AIB-N), is to provide technical support for the setting up of the Sierra Leone Aircraft Accident Incident Investigation Bureau (SL-AAIIB). This followed the conclusion of a recent two-day fact-finding mission to the Sierra Leone Aircraft Accident Incident Investigation Bureau (SL-AAIIB) by the AIB-N.

This is the second time AIB-N will be assisting member countries in the sub-region to establish their independent investigation agencies.

It would be recalled that the Bureau offered similar support to Gambia in establishing its accident investigation agency.

The agency, which is now rated as a regional leader in aircraft accident investigation has also assisted Sao Tome and Principe to conduct investigation into an aircraft crash.

The team led by Mr Adeniji Oni examined the Establishment of SL-AAIIB, Development of Legislation, Regulations, Manuals and Guidance Materials.







# MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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