

contd. in pg 2

...INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY *contd. from pg 1*

and Overhaul (MRO) facility, Concession of some airports, establishment of an Aviation Leasing Company, amongst others, will lay a solid and lasting foundation for Aviation development in Nigeria.

He also assures Nigerians that the implementation of the roadmap, which, according to him, is in line with the theme of the ICAD, remains on course and that the results will become obvious in due course.

The Minister also affirms that safety and security have remained at the centre of government policies in the sector since the inception of the current administration and its efforts have been applauded by all, including the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the

International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC).

He appeals to all players within the industry to join hands with the government to ensure the realisation of the lofty objectives of the roadmap for the benefit of Nigerians and all users of the nation's airspace.

The Minister also uses the occasion to reaffirm Nigeria's unalloyed commitment to the ideals of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and other Aviation bodies of which it is a member.

According to icao.int, after every five years, the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO council establishes a special anniversary

theme for the International Civil Aviation Day. The theme for International Civil Aviation Day 2020 is, “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”. The council has decided to keep the same theme until the year 2023.

International Civil Aviation Day was established in 1994 as part of ICAO's 50th anniversary activities. In 1996, pursuant to an ICAO initiative and with the assistance of the Canadian Government, the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day in the UN system.

The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the

...REPS SEEK RETURNS FROM OTHER SECTORS FOR NIMET SERVICES TO IMPROVE AGENCY'S REVENUE *contd. from pg 1*

gas ,construction industry, water resources and agriculture without returns however only the aviation sector pays the agency for its services.

The Chairman of the Committee, Honourable Nnolim Nnaji gave the assurance during the committee's oversight visit to the agency's Head Quarters at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.


Honourable Nnaji said the current situation would no longer be tolerated if the agency must remain in business adding that a lot of resources in terms of equipment and manpower are daily deployed by NIMET to give weather forecasts to these other sectors without returns.

The chairman however reassured the management of the agency that the current amendment Bill before the National Assembly when passed into law would empower NIMET to collect revenues from all organisations that make use of its services.

He praised the current management for its forward looking initiatives which according to him has placed the agency on a global map as a leading meteorological organization in Africa providing support services to several African countries.

Earlier in welcoming the committee, the Director-General of the agency, Professor Sani Masha told the



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visiting legislators that the agency was rated among the best by the World Meteorological Organization, (WMO) adding that NIMET was the first African Meteorological Agency to scale through the International Standard Organization (ISO) standards this year despite the challenges of COVID-19.

He disclosed that NIMET offers technical supports services to several African countries including trainings for various category of professionals, adding that the agency's pool of manpower are world class professionals in Meteorological services.

He sought the supports of the

National Assembly to enable NIMET expand its internally generated revenue, (IGR) beyond aviation sector.

The DG further disclosed that the international oil companies, (IOCs) spend the sum of \$230 million annually for Meteorological services from outside the country stressing that NIMET can provide same services the oil companies contract outside the country .

Professor Mashi also informed the committee that the marine sector, water and agriculture use its services extensively without paying a dime for such services being rendered to the sector.

NCAA, AIRLINE OPERATORS REACH AGREEMENT ON DEBT SETTLEMENT ...TO OPEN MORE REGIONAL OFFICES

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), has said that it has reached a compromise with airline operators in the country to ensure that debts owed the agency are reconciled and payment plan agreed on that would be favourable to all concerned.

This is just as the regulator said that between now and 2024, it will be developing all its regional offices providing adequate training, manpower to ensure that the regulatory agency provides its services in all nooks and crannies of the country.

Director General of the NCAA, Captain Musa Nuhu made this known when he played host to the House of Representatives Committee on Aviation which came on their oversight function of the industry.

Captain Nuhu who expressed some of the immediate needs of the NCAA, said the regulator understands the difficulty brought by the pandemic and will institute a payment plan that will be favourable to both the agency and operators.

On the need to develop regional offices to reduce the cumbersome nature of regulation and ensure its gets to the operators

According to him, "We are empowering five regional offices to ensure the the job in smaller areas get done and they do not have to refer to Lagos or Abuja. It brings regulation



■ L-R The DG NCAA, Capt. Musa Nuhu (M) with Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Aviation, Hon. Nnolim Nnaji (R) and Hon. Hassan Abdullahi during their oversight visit to the Aviation House.

closer to the operators outside Lagos and Abuja opening more regional offices in the far reaches of the country.

"Already Port Harcourt takes care of of the south East and south-south buyer are looking at opening a regional office in Enugu for the South East. We are looking at another one in either Maiduguri or Yola for the North East, Ilorin for the middle-belt and Uyo or Calabar for the South-South.

The DG also explained that training for the inspectors and other regulatory staff are key to the agency and that the NCAA was competing for manpower especially pilots and engineers with airlines that pay better.

Captain Nuhu however said it was

key because these inspectors with the CAA needed more training to be better on par with the trends in the industry so they can do their job better and that the only way to retain these pilots and engineers was to make the remuneration nearly at par with the airlines to keep them.

Reacting, the Chairman House Committee on Aviation, Honourable Nnolim Nnaji said the House was on its oversight function and would look at what the NCAA has done and intends to do with what as been allocated and would be allocated to them.

He also commended the NCAA for a job well done especially during the peak of the pandemic and how the regulatory agency handled it.

CAPT MUHTAR USMAN'S DEATH, A MONUMENTAL LOSS TO THE AVIATION INDUSTRY - SIRIKA

Minister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika has described the death of the immediate past Director-General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) as a monumental loss to the aviation industry.

Reacting to the death which occurred early Wednesday morning, Sirika said that although death is a journey on which everyone must embark at his own appointed time, Usman's own came at a time the industry needed all capable hands to be on deck to reposition it, considering the depth to which it had descended as a

result of the global pandemic.

Captain Muhtar Usman, the Minister said, would be remembered for his contributions to the sector as a pilot, Air accident investigator, industry regulator spanning his time at the defunct Nigeria Airways, Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) and most recently, at the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

He commiserates with the aviation family on the loss of a thoroughbred professional who distinguished himself in his chosen field, the family he has left behind and prays for the repose of his soul.



■ Ex-DG NCAA, Capt. Muhtar Usman

COVID-19: FG ISSUES PROTOCOL FOR PASSENGERS ORIGINATING FROM UK, SOUTH AFRICA

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has given out protocol for all passengers originating from United Kingdom and South Africa effective from Dec.28.

The NCAA Director General, Mr Musa Nuhu, issued the protocol in a letter to all Nigerian operators and foreign operators flying into Nigeria with a reference NCC/DG/AIR/11/16/286 in Abuja. According to DG NCAA, the move affected all airlines with passengers originated from the United Kingdom and South Africa regardless of transit arrangements.

He said Federal Government, through Presidential Task Force, had reviewed quarantine protocol due to recent spike in cases of COVID-19 in Nigeria and reported highly transmissible new variant of virus in United Kingdom and South Africa.

“For the two countries, passengers must present the following documents in order to be allowed to board their flight to Nigeria. “ Pre-

departure “ PERMIT TO FLY/QR code” generated from the Nigeria International Travel Portal (<https://nitp.ncdc.gov.ng>) showing evidence of payment for the post-arrival day 7 COVID-19 PCR test and; “Documentary evidence of a “NEGATIVE COVID-19” PCR result done within 96 hours (4 days) of boarding from a verifiable laboratory or health facility,” he said.

He said passengers would be received and processed separately by Public Health Authority on arrival in Nigeria.

He further stated that all passengers would be required to self-isolate for seven days after arrival followed by a COVID-19 PCR test.

He stated that a dedicated register of arriving passengers from the United Kingdom and South Africa would be opened for enhanced surveillance and active enforcement of the protocols.

“This shall be applicable to scheduled and non-scheduled flights conveying passengers originating

from United Kingdom and South Africa.

“The earlier quarantine protocol which became effective on Sept.18, 2020 shall continue to subsist for flight originating from other countries except for the validity of the Pre-departure PCR test result which now be 96 hours (4 days) from date of departure.

“ The effective date is Monday Dec. 28, 2020 Local Time (2301UTC), “ he said.

The director general said punitive measure would be taken against who would fail to comply with the content of the letter.

According to him, any airlines fail to comply will be fined three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).

“Airlines may be required to return non-Nigerian defaulting passengers to point of embarkation. Repeated non-compliance by any airline will lead to the suspension of the Airline’s Approval/Permit to fly into the country,” he said.

How to avoid infection or spreading the virus



Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds



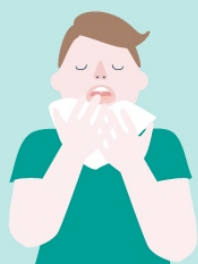
Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth



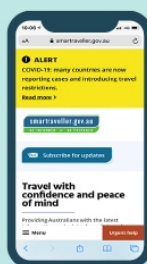
Cover your mouth or nose when coughing or sneezing



Use only disposable tissues, and dispose of them immediately after use



Avoid close contact with anyone showing respiratory symptoms



Monitor travel advice on Smartraveller smartraveller.gov.au



Stay at home when you are sick




THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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All correspondence should be addressed to:

Public Affairs Division,
The Federal Ministry of Aviation,
Federal Secretariat Phase I,
Shehu Shagari Way,
Central Business District,
FCT - Abuja

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 FMAVIATIONNG
 FMAVIATIONNG
 info@aviation.gov.ng
 www.aviation.gov.ng