PRESS RELEASE

Airport Safety Management System Training Kicks Off in Kisumu

Nairobi March 10, 2013 – A nine day training program in Airport Safety Management Systems has kicked off in Kisumu today.

The training which is being facilitated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Trainers, is jointly organized by the Kenya Airports Authority and Namibia Airport Company and involves senior management participants from both entities. The training is aimed at producing highly efficient safety and quality managers who will ensure that their organizational safety targets are met.

While speaking during the opening of the program, The Airport Manager for Kisumu International Airport, Mr. Joseph Okumu noted that his airport has put in place various safety systems to ensure that staff, stakeholders and airport users in general are safe. Among this is a Safety Management System Document that allows a systematic way to identify hazards and control risks while maintaining assurance that these risk controls are effective.

"We recognize that Safety is a basic element in our industry and therefore believe that a safety management system should be woven into the very fabric of our organization. It should become part of the culture and the way we operate while at work, to encourage this, a Safety Management Committee comprising of Section Heads at Kisumu International Airport has been set up to effectively push the safety agenda at our airport." Mr. Okumu added

Kisumu international Airport is currently undertaking phase two of its upgrading project to bring cargo-handling facilities so as to kick off exportation of produce to the international market. The first phase was the expansion of the runway from 2KMs Long/30meters Wide to 3.3 KMs long/45KMs meters wide. This was to enable Kisumu accommodate large aircrafts.

Just like in Nairobi, Mombasa and other major towns, Kisumu International Airport is also set to have a flying school. This will enable many students interested in aviation technology to study at the facility instead of leaving the county.

Kenya Airports Authority signed Memorandum of Understanding with Namibia Airports Company in April last year in a bid to develop closer cooperative relationship, build industry professionalism and enhance international trade between the airport communities of NAC and KAA.

Under the pact, the two entities agree to exchange professional experience relating to industry advancements of airports worldwide; share insights and information as it relates to meeting the many challenges faced by world airports as well as promote the expansion of safe, modern and efficient airports regionally and internationally.

The just launched SMS training in Kisumu is set to cumulate into High Level Safety brief to be conducted in Nairobi at the Kenya School of Government (KSG) on 20th March 2014.

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About KAA

The Kenya Airports Authority is an autonomous body established in 1991 through an Act of Parliament and is charged with an umbrella responsibility of providing and managing a coordinated system of airports in Kenya. KAA manages 4 International airports, 4 domestic airports and several airstrips. The main airports managed by KAA are:-Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Moi International Airport (MIA), Eldoret International Airport (EIA) and Kisumu International Airport (KIA). All the airports handled a total of 8 million passengers in the year 2012 with JKIA, the flagship currently handling 6 million passengers per annum. JKIA which directly contributes about 10.9% of GDP is currently undergoing expansion and rehabilitation that will see it handle 20 million passengers by end 2013.

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