

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT, HONOURABLE PROF. MARK J. MWANDOSYA ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY ON 7th DECEMBER 2005

Today the United Republic of Tanzania joins other Contracting States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the commemoration of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation in Chicago on 7th December 1944. I would therefore like to salute Dr. Assad Kotaite, the President of the ICAO Council and Dr. Taieb Cherif, the ICAO's Secretary General.

During sixty-two years of its existence, ICAO has continued to provide outstanding global leadership in ensuring that international civil aviation develops in a safe, secure and orderly manner and that international air transport services are operated economically. During this period the world has witnessed unprecedented growth of the industry from its humble beginning in 1944 to a unique global transport network, linking continents, countries and cultures and facilitating trade, business and tourism.

As we join the rest of the world in this year's celebrations, it is worthwhile for each one of us to appreciate the growing role the civil aviation industry and air transport play in world economies, including those of developing states like Tanzania. Civil aviation is acknowledged as a catalyst for economic development by making new markets accessible to potential investors and opening up new destinations to tourists. The sector provides direct, indirect and

induced employment opportunities in addition to the other economic benefits accrued from industry operations and hence contributing to poverty alleviation.

However, while the benefits of civil aviation cannot be disputed, it has its share in environmental degradation. Therefore, the theme for this year's International Civil Aviation Day – *“The Greening of Flight – maximizing compatibility between safe and orderly development of civil aviation and the quality of the environment”* is another wake-up call to governments to ensure they adopt appropriate policies which will strike a balance between social and economic development and the protection of the environment. Reconciling society's growing demand for air transport and the need to mitigate the risks associated with engine emissions is one of the fundamental challenges for the government and industry stakeholders.

While at the national level the Office of the Vice President has the overall responsibility of environment issues and the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) is charged with monitoring of the environmental protection, it must be recognized that like security, environment matters are cross-cutting and are thus everyone's concern. That is why environmental protection is very well articulated in the Vision and Mission of the National Transport Policy which was adopted in 2003.

On the international seen, Tanzania fully supports the work of the United Nations in its effort of protecting the environment. The coming into force of the Kyoto

Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 16 February 2005 is a significant step in ensuring that the developed countries, which are the major sources of greenhouse gases, take necessary steps in limiting and reducing the emissions. Tanzania took an active role during the negotiations that led to the Kyoto Protocol. Prof. Mark J. Mwandosya, currently the Minister for Communications and Transport, chaired Meetings of the Group of 77 countries and the People's Republic of China during the negotiations.

Although civil aviation accounts for less than 3% of all carbon dioxide emissions worldwide, it is still important that countries continue to take necessary steps to keep aircraft emissions as low as possible. While the UNFCCC has delegated ICAO with the responsibility of proposing a solution for international aviation emissions, domestic emissions are included in the Kyoto Protocol. Therefore, it is important for the aviation regulatory body to put in place regulations which will ensure that service providers adopt measures to keep emissions under strict control, regardless of the levels of traffic currently being handled at our airports.

The regional efforts by the East African Community and Southern Africa Development Community Partner States in establishing unified upper flight information regions is a step in the right direction. This will create larger airspaces and enable more direct flight routes which will be shorter and more fuel efficient. The long term objective should be to unify the continental airspace which will be controlled by only two or three upper control centres.

Together with aircraft emissions, aircraft noise is another worldwide major aviation related environmental hazard. Although aircraft noise is currently not a big issue to the Tanzania population, it is still important for all stakeholders to take necessary steps to mitigate the effects of aircraft noise to the people, particularly those who reside very close to international airports.

Continuing research and development of quieter aircraft should go hand in hand with local measures of proper land use planning where settlements are deliberately kept at a safe distance from airports. The type of unplanned settlements at Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere International Airport should be avoided at other growing airports in the country.

In order to mainstream environment issues in all sector programmes, the Government will ensure that Environmental Impact Assessment study will precede approval of any major investment into new airports, new passenger or cargo terminal buildings, aircraft maintenance hangars or other infrastructure such as hotels, fuel farms and other related facilities.

As we celebrate this year's International Civil Aviation day, let each one of us rededicate herself/himself in the promotion of greater growth of civil aviation which continues to be safer, efficient, orderly and environmentally friendly. The Government will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to establish or

review existing aviation and/or environmental policies and laws so as to align them with the changing requirement.

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, let me take this opportunity to wish the aviation fraternity in Tanzania, the flying and general public a very memorable International Civil Aviation Day.