



Safety & Security, Our Priority.

# SLCAA

Issue No. 01 2019

Safety & Security, Our Priority.



SAFETY AND  
SECURITY,  
OUR PRIORITY

Aviation Scorecard:

## President Bio's **STRIDES IN AVIATION**





APRIL 12, 2019

*The Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority says aviation is a key enabler of socioeconomic development, therefore governments in Africa must take the opportunity to invest in the sector.*

*He made this statement during the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regional Aviation Forum for West and Central Africa held in Ghana. The theme “Aviation: Business for Regional Prosperity” saw the need for panelists to discuss possible plans to improve on the Air transport industry in the region.*

*DG Baio said an improved Air transport system would provide significant social benefits in Africa by facilitating tourism and trade, promoting culture, boosting careers, providing jobs, and increasing revenues from taxes to trigger economic growth.*

*“Air transport facilitates economic development. Today, we have over 2 billion passengers worldwide; the traffic level is growing significantly, and by 2030, the worldwide traffic level is expected to double. In terms of benefit for Africa, air transport is contributing approximately \$17 billion to GDP with 7 million employees. With that said, 15 out of those 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals are impacted by aviation. In Africa—specifically Sierra Leone—potentials exist for growth and benefit, but there are challenges and threat due to high accident rate, poor level of compliance with safety and security standards, inability to effectively oversee aviation sectors, etc. These factors lead to other countries’ imposing restrictions on other countries of which Sierra Leone is a vivid example,” he said.*

*“Investing in Aviation infrastructure for economic growth is not limited to building improved terminal buildings alone, but rather investing in the fundamental aviation infrastructure makes more sense towards enhancing aviation safety and security in compliance with ICAO’s Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). Successive government should consider aviation as a flagship project because it is an enabler of socioeconomic development,” he said.*

*Being part of the panel, he mentioned that the role of CAA Director Generals must not be limited to monitoring and enforcing compliance at industry level, but also requires some awareness raising amongst key stakeholders including political leaders, adding that the fight towards the enhancement of Africa safety and security requires a collective and coordinated approach from all stakeholders.*

*“Regardless of the posing challenges, Africa is set to become one of the fastest growing Aviation regions in the next 20 years with an annual expansion of nearly 5% as referenced in IATA’s report,” he said.*

*The IATA Regional Aviation Forum was organised to discuss pertinent regional issues ranging from securing the Prosperity of Aviation Businesses in West and Central Africa; supporting Regional Tourism Growth, Aviation supporting Agro-Industry, removing impediments to slow collaboration among African Airlines to growing Political Will to drive the Aviation Agenda.*

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AVIATION  
IS AN  
ENABLER  
OF SOCIO  
ECONOMIC  
GROWTH

says Moses Tiffa Baio  
- DG SLCAA



## ICAO Audit Team Presents Interim Security Audit Report on Aviation Security Systems to SLCAA

AUGUST 30, 2019

By Cyril Barnes

*On Friday 30th August, 2019, following the recent International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) conducted to assess the level of security compliance in Sierra Leone, a team of four has presented an Interim Security Audit Report on the State's Aviation Security Systems to the Sierra Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA).*

*The just concluded security audit mission was carried out to promote global aviation security through continuous auditing and monitoring of the aviation security performance of Sierra Leone by determining the level of effective implementation of the critical elements of the State's aviation security oversight system.*

*In his remarks, the Director General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio expressed his appreciation to the team for their display of professionalism, believing that the just concluded audit programme was indeed a memorable one.*

*"The move for the enactment of the SLCAA Act, 2019 was an inspiration from your team, knowing fully well that without the passing of the bill, the State will not meet the global security rating.*

*As actors of the State, we have done all we can to ensure compliance; therefore we are looking forward to a positive outcome. The State will work assiduously to effect the recommendations proffered by the team," DG Baio said.*

*The team lead, Aurélien Lavayssière thanked the Government of Sierra Leone, Civil Aviation Authority, Airport Authority and other security agencies for their support.*

*While deliberating on the areas covered, he noted that Critical Element One, which covers primary security legislation, was well established as a result of the enactment of the SLCAA Act, 2019.*

*"All of the eight critical elements areas of the USAP were covered. The enactment of the 2019 Act is essential because it provides sufficient details for the establishment of the SLCAA and the empowerment of the national aviation security inspectors.*

*Generally, there is a greater degree of progress made in all the eight critical elements which will be detailed in the final audit report that will be sent to the state in six weeks' time from the date of 30th August 2019.*

*However, some areas may require amendments, reviews, updates etc but with the high level of cooperation amongst security actors in the aviation sector this will be done in shortest possible time as they are not significant findings," he said.*

*In his closing courtesy, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Sadiq Sillah said the certificate of urgency signed by His Excellency Julius Maada Bio was a demonstration of his commitment towards building a safe and secure aviation system in Sierra Leone. He expressed optimism in the outcome of the result while maintaining that any support needed to address emerging issues would be provided.*

*"President Bio believes in the development of the aviation industry because a sound aviation system will be a catalyst for tourism and other sectors to boom, as aviation does not only provide global connectivity but also economic growth," he said.*

## Bargaining to Build a Safe and Secure Civil Aviation System in Sierra Leone

By Moses Tiffa Baio

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

*This year's ICAO Assembly provides a basket of opportunities for Member States to improve on their aviation systems: the urge to improve on safety and security levels amidst global threats; the emergence of unmanned aircraft (drones and loons), the zest to draft new regulations, the call to build on aviation infrastructure, the fight to reduce carbon emission to guarantee environmental protection and the quest to include more women in the industry have been central to the International Civil Aviation Organization's 40th Assembly.*

*The "No Country Left Behind" has helped Members States build sound aviation systems in the areas of improving their safety and security standards in compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS). During the opening session of the Assembly, ICAO gave certificates to countries who, amidst turbulence, have weathered the storms to improve on their safety and security levels over the past three years. Gracing such a colorful occasion and knowing fully well what it meant for Member States, not only was I inspired to see Sierra Leone get both safety and security certificates, but also energized to ensure Sierra Leone builds a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation system.*

*In achieving the above, engaging global experts for technical assistance has thus been the hallmark of achieving our goal as a nation. Irrespective of the challenges we are faced with, I see aviation as a bigger bargaining chip to build our economy—an economy that does not heavily rely on mining activities. A sound aviation system will give the state equal support mining gives without much environmental degradation. On the other side of the flip, aviation facilitates tourism, strengthens other sectors and provides jobs.*

*The emergence of unmanned aircraft presents a much more greater opportunity to facilitate agriculture,*

*health, security surveillance and deliveries, but its challenges are innumerable, given the need to ensure safety. Given the safety and security concern it poses, we must count the cost before embracing the concept holistically.*

*Using the New Direction Paradigm to build a safe and secure civil aviation system has been productive thus far. Based on the already carved path, the Sierra Leone delegation to the ICAO 40th Assembly have been constantly bargaining with aviation experts from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau to assist in building capacity, developing civil aviation master plan, designing Technical Assistance Programs among others.*

*Like never before, we are emboldened to share President Bio's vision to provide the much needed political will to enhance Sierra Leone's aviation industry in order to match up with global standards.*

*Today, aviation offers a wide range of opportunities to create new routes, new markets and new careers. As a state, we must grab all those baskets of opportunities and make our industry viable. We must stretch our arms wide enough to accept improved ideas offered for growth and must also have our share by dipping our hands in the basket of benefits provided by the global aviation actors.*

*As we bargain with key aviation players to build our system in a sustainable manner, we, as a state, must be inspired to build our own system; we must be bold enough to identify our deficiencies, take advantage of the emerging trends, anticipate growth to build an economically viable aviation industry. Our goal to eclipse the global safety and security benchmarks coupled with our pursuit to achieve the Freetown International Airport Certification must not be clouded with cynicism and inferiority. We must be determined to leave our mark on the global space.*

# AFCAC Team Briefs SLCAA on Technical Assistance Mission



AUGUST 13, 2019  
Tuesday 13th August, 2019

A two-man delegation from the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) has briefed the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) on the AFI-Cooperative Inspectors Scheme (AFI-CIS) mission to Sierra Leone. The mission which is fully supported by the European Union-Africa Safety in Aviation (EU-ASA) is set to increase the Effective Implementation (EI) target to 60% for Airworthiness, Flight Operations and Personnel Licensing.

The objective of the mission is to review the Authority's relevant protocol questions (Pqs), provide SLCAA with safety oversight procedures and technical guidance material (TGM) for certification, licensing and surveillance activities in the areas of Flight Operations (OPS), Personnel Licensing and Airworthiness.

Briefing SLCAA, the AFCAC Safety Expert, James Danga said Sierra Leone is the first to benefit from the EU-ASA project. He maintained that the mission was to help Sierra Leone achieve 60% Effective Implementation in highlighted areas.

"The EU-ASA supports African states to improve their Effective Implementations (EIs) of the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). The process will assist Sierra Leone develop and effectively implement safety oversight corrective action plans; and carry out certification and surveillance activities."

In his conclusion, the AFCAC expert noted that in order to guarantee positive results, AFCAC would ensure ICAO validation of all work done by the AFI-CIS inspectors through off-site and on-site. Heads of the department of Airworthiness, Personnel Licensing and Flight Operations presented updates on their activities and areas that needed the AFI-CIS team's technical assistance moving forward.

# GoSL Eliminates GST on Aviation Charges



NOVEMBER 8, 2019

In an effort to make air transport affordable and accessible to all Sierra Leoneans and also to promote tourism, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), through the Ministry of Finance, has eliminated the Goods and Service Tax (GST) levied on all aviation charges at the Freetown International Airport.

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Jacob Jusu Saffa made this disclosure during the reading of the Government Budget for the 2020 Financial Year in the Well of Parliament. The GST exemption on all aviation charges is expected to take effect in 2020 after the enactment of the 2020 Finance Bill.

The objective of the tax exemption on aviation charges is to reduce the cost of travel to Sierra Leone in order to promote air transportation, boost tourism and create job opportunities. According to the budget: "All

aviation related charges will be exempted from the payment of GST. These include all aircraft handling charges and aircraft fuelling."

The Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Moses Tiffa Baio said the move made by the Government of Sierra Leone to exempt all aviation related charges in Financial Year, a2020 is a demonstration of government's strong political will to develop the aviation industry in Sierra Leone, adding that it is another way of opening Sierra Leone to tourism and other development opportunities which can be an incentive for economic turnaround in 2020.

"The elimination of GST on all aviation related charges at the Freetown International Airport opens the door to multiple opportunities of which the reduction of airline ticket prices in Sierra Leone is the key.

Before now, airport charges and taxes levied on airline operations had direct impact on ticket cost which resulted to increase in air tickets. The tax exemption will reduce cost of operations for the airlines and thus foster industry growth and contribute to the promotion of Air transport and tourism in Sierra Leone," he said.

The effort to build a safe, secure, sound and economically viable aviation system in Sierra Leone has been one of the top priorities of the New Direction administration. Before the move to eliminate GST on aviation related charges, GoSL reduced all airport taxes levied on air tickets.

With these highlighted reductions backed up by the plan implementation of Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) by International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Government of Sierra Leone, it is expected that air ticket prices will be reduced considerably in 2020 and beyond.



# ICAO Regional

Thursday 4th October, 2018

*The Regional Director of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, Mam Sait Jallow has engaged the Minister of Finance, Hon. Jacob Jusu Saffa on the need to strengthen the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority to make it an autonomous body equipped with trained and qualified staff and improved aviation services to meet international standards.*

*Introducing the Regional Director, the Director General of Civil Aviation Authority Moses Tiffa Baio expressed appreciation to the minister for giving them the opportunity to meet and discuss on issues bordering on development amidst busy schedule. He stated that the country has just changed its leadership following a successful election; in that vein, the authority has also been affected by such a change. Against that background, he noted that the regional director's visit was hinged on transforming the aviation sector and further strengthening cooperation for fulfilment of Sierra Leone's obligations as an ICAO Contracting State which is in line with President Bio's New Direction Agenda on aviation.*

*Addressing the honourable minister, Mr Jallow thanked him for accepting his short notice. He also used the opportunity to congratulate him on his appointment and the government on winning the general elections to steer their country's affairs with a sense of responsibility. He stated that the objectives of his visit were to interact with the members of the new administration and help them in area of capacity building; brief them on global priorities, programmes and plans to lift Civil Aviation*

## Director engages Finance Minister on the need to develop SLCAA

*Authority to regional level, share with them information on regional plans in terms of assistance and to know what Sierra Leone's specific needs are in relation to boosting the field of aviation.*

*"Air transport facilitates economic development. Today, we have over 2 billion passengers world wide; the traffic level is growing significantly, and by 2030, the world-wide traffic level is expected to double. In terms of benefit for Africa, air transport is contributing approximately \$17 billion to GDP with 7 million employees. With that said, 15 out of those 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals are impacted by aviation. In Africa—specifically Sierra Leone—potentials exist for growth and benefit, but there are challenges and threat due to high accident rate, poor level of compliance with safety and security standards, inability to effectively oversee aviation sectors etc. These factors lead to other countries' imposing restrictions on other countries of which Sierra Leone is a vivid example," he said.*

*His key message is for government to add Civil Aviation Authority and everything that concerns aviation into its development priorities as the government seeks to diversify the economy with key emphasis on agricultural production. That, he said, cannot be fully achieved without air transportation.*

*He further added that ICAO assists all countries—especially countries that are below the compliance margin—according to their needs to ensure that they implement international standards and their committed practices to benefit equally like other countries; and they do that by increasing compliance level, safety and security services by making sure that they do not have any safety concerns and threat in aviation services.*

*The Honourable Minister of Finance reaffirmed governments commitment to improving the safety and security of the Civil Aviation and Airport Authorities respectively. He affirmed that he is ready to work with the SLCAA and SLAA to ensure that they succeed in their move to improve on air transport service to match up with international standards. Mr Saffa added that the Bio Administration is very worried about safety and security concerns and they will do whatever it takes to address it as soon as possible.*

*The minister furthered that ICAO and SLCAA should get the Ministry of Finance involved in any programme and correspondence so that issues relating to them will be handled in a timely manner. He promised that all arrears the authority has to pay in relation to its financial obligations to ICAO will be addressed in the following months.*

## MAMAMAH AIRPORT IS A SHAM: DIRECTOR GENERAL, SLCAA

*Following the termination of the Mamamah Airport Project, the Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Moses Tiffa Baio has averred that the Mamamah Project is a sham, as it does not only serve as an unnecessary financial burden on the government and the people of Sierra Leone but also does not measure up to the standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on airport design and construction.*

*As head of SLCAA, he wishes to inform the general public that the decision—which was based on technical reasons—of the government is in the best interest of the country; therefore, Sierra Leoneans should applaud the effort of the government to save the land that we love from another safety deficiency.*

*The Director-General believes that the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority has no documents related to the Freetown International Airport Project. He maintained that several letters were sent for which the Freetown International Airport Project team responded, but the Chinese refused to release any document connected to the said project until an initial payment, they had invested in the project, was paid.*

*Mr. Baio added that due to the investigations and notes taken during the project's technical meetings, he noted that the primary determining factor for the location of an airport and the orientation of a runway is the meteorological studies done to determine the wind speed and direction. "In the case of the proposed Mamamah Airport," he said, "no specific meteorological studies were conducted for the particular airport location, but the meteorological data for Freetown, as a whole, was considered," he said. He also believes, however, that the method used does not comply with International Civil Aviation Organisation Standards and Recommended Practices (ICAO Annex 14 and Aerodrome Design Manual Part 1).*

*He went further to expose the ineffectiveness of the project by dismissing that in the area of statistics for visibility, no realistic studies were done for the particular site. The Director-General confirmed they used the visibility data for Freetown instead.*

AUGUST 21, 2019

“They used the data from passenger forecast studies which were conducted between the year 2000—2009 to forecast for traffic growth for 2020, which means the size of the proposed design was based on the traffic expected (projected) for the year 2020. It was expected that the project which was designed to span for 3 years would have started in 2010 with hope to be completed by 2013. As we are now in 2018, taking the increase in passenger growth and the time lapse for the initiation of the project, the design for passenger growth for the year 2020 was becoming obsolete.”

He furthered that the proposed floor areas of the Passenger Terminal Building (5,000 m sq), parking lots (7,000 m sq), Admin Building (3,600 m sq), RFFS (100 m sq) Apron (317 m X 122 m), the number and designation of aircraft the Apron can park, amongst other things, was presumed to be smaller compared to what we currently have at the Freetown International Airport. He noted, however, that this presumption could not be confirmed as the airport authority could not provide and has still not provided information on these facilities after several letters sent to them.

Mr. Baio strengthened his statement by adding that: “From spatial diagram presented during one of the meetings, it was observed that the airspace of Freetown International Airport and Mamamah overlaps; the

distance between the two airports is 42km, and the distance between the axial lines is 15km. For the lateral separation, both airports can suffice the requirement of 10km radar control, but fails to meet the requirement of 20km procedure control, so airspace conflict exists here.”

The CAA boss reiterated that base on the above observations, the completion of the construction of the Mamamah Airport could not have met the International Civil Aviation Organisation requirements for airport certification which could have led to a serious safety deficiency on the part of the State, and, thus, pose an air travel risk which could have served as a disincentive to potential investors and tourists travelling into Sierra Leone.

He concluded by noting that the above observations mentioned were stated in those technical committee meetings of which the Chinese Contractors could not verify/provide for further information.

For more information on the above please contact the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority which is the ONLY body mandated by law (SLCAA Act 2017) to advise the government on the development of the aviation industry in Sierra Leone or visit CAA 3rd Floor NDB Building 21—23 Siaka Steven Street.

# ICAO COMMENCES UNIVERSAL SECURITY AUDIT PROGRAM ON SIERRA LEONE AVIATION SECURITY SYSTEMS

The national briefing session, which took place at the ministry’s Conference Hall in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA), Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), Board of Airline Representatives (BAR), Westminster Aviation Security Services (WASS), Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and Sierra Leone Police (SLP), opened the 10 days audit event.

**DG Baio reminded the audience that Sierra Leone security ratings is currently below the regional and global average (65% and 70%)**

The Universal Security Audit Programme is geared towards promoting global aviation security through continuous auditing and monitoring of the aviation security performance of Sierra Leone Aviation Security Systems from the regulator to the service providers. The audit plan entails a review of national/airport level documents, visit to the industry to observe security measures, follow-up activities and post-audit debriefing.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has Commenced the Universal Security Audit Programme-Continuous Monitoring Approach on Sierra Leone Aviation Security Systems at the Freetown International Airport (FNA), Lungi on Wednesday 21st August 2019.

In his remark, the Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority Moses Tiffa Baio stressed the importance of the audit to the SLCAA and the country, while emphasizing on the State’s commitment in enhancing aviation security in Sierra Leone in order to be in compliance with the Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

DG Baio reminded the audience that Sierra Leone security ratings is currently below the regional and global average (65% and 70%) set by the Windhoek declaration on Aviation Security and Facilitation.

Briefing the representatives present, the leader of the 4-man delegation Aurelien Lavayssiere noted that the team was pleased to see state security involved in promoting aviation security. He disclosed the audit would be a full-scale audit, covering 497 protocol questions. He added further that since the last audit, many developments have evolved especially with Annex





17 of which 4 amendments of the Annex 17 have been approved.

“The objective of the audit is to promote global aviation security and this is achieved by determining the level of effective implementation of the 8 Critical Elements (CE) of an aviation security oversight system and providing an indication of the Effective Implementation (EI) of Annex 17—Security Standards and securityrelated Standards of Annex 9—Facilitation to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The audit will be based on 3 activities: Documentation-based, Oversightfocused and Compliance-focused audits,” he said.

In his statement, the Minister of Transport and Aviation Hon. Kabineh Kallon expressed government’s commitment in enhancing global aviation security which he said was demonstrated by providing the Civil Aviation Authority with the full political support to amend the Civil Aviation Authority Act 2017; thereby providing sufficient enforcement powers to enable the Authority carry out its oversight responsibilities.

# MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION MEETS ICAO SECRETARY GENERAL

OCTOBER 12, 2019

The Minister of Transport and Aviation who is also Sierra Leone’s Lead Delegate to ICAO 40th Assembly has met with the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Dr. Fang Liu to thank her for ICAO’s contributions to the development of aviation in Sierra Leone.

The meeting was purposely scheduled to appreciate the leadership of ICAO for their technical assistance in the Safe Fund Project which helped in addressing the State’s safety deficiencies and also the inclusion of Sierra Leone in the Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) Airport plan for the certification of the Freetown International

Airport (FNA).

Hon. Kabineh Kallon appreciates the ICAO Secretary General for their numerous support in strengthening Global Civil Aviation particularly in the spirit of “No Country Left Behind”. While commenting on the political support for the growth of aviation industry in Sierra Leone, the Minister said the Government of Sierra Leone is committed to building the aviation industry given its significance to the State. He also thanked ICAO for the Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB) assistance in developing Civil Aviation Master Plan for Sierra Leone, requesting more support for the development of the sector in the future.

Aviation is a catalyst for economic growth because it helps tourism to blossom. The President of Sierra Leone is working hard to diversify the economy as tourism forms the basis of our country’s economic diversification drive. Aviation facilitates tourism, as a result of this, aviation has been included in the National Development Plan for Sierra Leone. We are desperate to achieve positive result irrespective of our infrastructural challenges,” he said.

In response to the Minister’s statement, the ICAO Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu expressed her delight in the growth of aviation in Sierra Leone, especially the political commitment. She observed the current state of the industry in Sierra Leone, commenting further that ICAO would make aviation visible in Sierra Leone.

“We are aware of the infrastructural and human capital development challenges in Sierra Leone’s aviation sector, and be rest assured we will support you in any development drive to improve on the current state of Sierra Leone. However, much of the responsibility lies in the hands of the State.

Aviation is a key to unlock any development project and to further highlight its significance, aviation contributes to 15 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Sierra Leone must see aviation as an enabler of economic growth and the State should strengthen its commitment to ICAO,” she said.

AUGUST 26, 2019

By Cyril Barnes

Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) and the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) in November last year, the NCAA has sent a three-man delegation to offer technical assistance to SLCAA in areas of Personnel Licensing and Aeromedical Standards.

The mission is aimed at providing technical assistance to the SLCAA with the view of addressing its safety deficiencies in the areas of Personnel Licensing and Aeromedical Standards.



# NCAA Offers Technical Assistance to SLCAA



The Director General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio welcomed the team of experts and expressed his appreciation to the Director General of NCAA for his tremendous support in safety and security, while noting that the relationship between Sierra Leone and Nigeria dated as far back in colonial days when the two countries were part of the British Colonial block which formed the West Africa Airways. He added that ever since the bond was established, Nigeria helped Sierra Leone in so many ways including the ICAO 'No Country left behind' initiative.

DG Baio mentioned further that their visit is important to the state, given the current safety rating of which Personnel Licensing forms part of the eight Critical Elements. He assured them of immediate action in areas that needed prompt improvement.

Presenting the purpose of the mission, the Personnel Licensing Inspector of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Sam Abokie said the NCAA Team arrived specifically to assist the Authority address issues relating to Personnel Licensing and Aeromedicine.

"We are pleased to host the three technical experts from NCAA as this technical assistance mission will strengthen the SLCAA in the two areas mentioned, especially when the Authority will be adopting the NCAA aeromedicine and PEL model. We agree that the two departments play a critical role in guaranteeing aviation safety and compliance, and this makes them interwoven as the issuing of licenses is largely based on the issuing of certificates of fitness to aviation professionals to carry out their required functions," he disclosed.

Speaking on behalf of the NCAA team, the General Manager of

Aeromedical Standards Dr Wilfred T. Haggai said the team was impressed with the Director General's dynamism to address deficiencies, adding that the SLCAA has the potential to develop under his leadership. While stating the essence of their visit, he recalled the team conducted needs assessment on PEL and Aeromedical Standards in May this year to cover technical assistance and training.

"We are here to provide technical assistance in reviewing the status of Corrective Action Plan (CAP), reviewing the State Aviation Activity questionnaire/ ICAOCMA/OLF in PEL, carrying out cross referencing of the SLCAA regulations in line with ICAO Annex 1, reviewing the designation of Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) of SLCAA and undergo a reassessment of Class 3 medical certificate issued to Air traffic controllers by the AME, adopting and adapting the NCAA TGMs in PEL and ANS," he said.

undergone the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP); adding that in preparation for the audit, ICAO regional office had dispatched a couple of assistance missions to Sierra Leone to assess the State's level of preparedness.

The implementation of security measures at the Freetown International Airport (FNA) is laudable; however, the measures should be backed by a strong legal framework. Some of the measures currently being implemented at the airport can be legally challenged, hence the need to review and strengthen the current Civil Aviation Act, 2017 in order to address the latest amendments to Annex 17 and Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention," he said. The Deputy Minister further noted that as a result of its exigency, His Excellency Julius Maada Bio reconvened Parliament with a certificate of urgency to

promulgate the 2019 Civil Aviation Act to enable the state to comply with ICAO SARPs and meet the global Security rating of 75%.

He concluded by submitting that: "If the Act is not enacted there may be grave consequences as Sierra Leone will not attain the global aviation security rating on effective implementation level of 75%; the international Airport will be declared insecure and may be blacklisted, it will affect ticket pricing as any airline flying into Sierra Leone may do so at their own risk, and it will make the state uncompetitive in terms of tourism promotion and development which thus negates government's effort toward achieving economic diversification."

In response to the Deputy Minister's presentation, Members of Parliament present agreed that

passing the bill into law would be in the best interest of the country not only for economic benefits, but also to position the State strategically in the global aviation system.

The Acting Leader of Opposition, Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo emphasized that:

"Parliament must accept the fact that the bill presented is important for the development of Civil Aviation which directly borders on the security of the state.

The 75% is achievable, and this Parliament is willing to make it happen. They will speedily enact the bill to comply with ICAO SARPs, and enhance Civil Aviation Security in order to move a step towards achieving sustainable development."

## PARLIAMENT ENACTS SLCAA ACT, 2019

AUGUST 29, 2019

By Cyril Barnes

On Thursday 29th August, 2019, Parliament has enacted the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Act 2019 to provide for an effective aviation safety and security oversight system and address the requirements of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944).

Sierra Leone being a signatory to the Chicago Convention is required to comply with all Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of which the Civil Aviation Act 2019 forms the legal basis for the implementation of aviation safety and security

policies in Sierra Leone.

Presenting the bill in the Well of Parliament, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Sadiq Sillah informed Members of Parliament that Sierra Leone has

## NCAA Staff Concludes Technical Assistance to Sierra Leone

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

By Cyril Barnes

Representatives from the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority have concluded their technical assistance mission to Sierra Leone following two weeks working session with the Personnel Licensing (PEL) and Aero Medical Standards (AME) Departments of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA).

Representatives from the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority have concluded their technical assistance mission to Sierra Leone following a two weeks working session with the Personnel Licensing (PEL) and Aero Medical Section (AMS) Departments of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA).

The objective of the technical assistance mission to Sierra Leone was to review progress made on Corrective Action Plan (CAP) based on the Needs Assessment Report on Personnel Licensing and Aero Medical Section, review and update Sierra Leone PEL State Aviation Activity Questionnaire (SAAQ) on the

In his presentation, the General Manager of Aero Medical Standards Dr Wilfred T. Haggai highlighted the mandate of the technical assistance which included setting up all PEL and AMS activities for the SLCAA.

“In May this year, we conducted needs assessment to see where the SLCAA was, in respect to PEL and AMS. When we arrived here two weeks ago, we met some of the recommendations we made had already been accomplished. This is just a preliminary report, as the team will send the final report in due course,” he said. Dr Haggai added, “We reviewed the system and discovered that the SLCAA Management had initiated process to implement some of the needs assessment of which the recruitment of additional of PEL and AMS Inspectors in line with Critical Element four (CE-4) has been achieved, and scheduling a PEL officer for ICAO Government Safety Inspector (GSI) PEL course in line with CE-4 will be carried out in ten days to ensure that qualification process is not hampered,” he said.

In highlighting the improvements made, he mentioned that during the course of the mission the team completed and updated the Compliance Checklists which formed part of Annex 1 in line with Critical Element two (CE-2), and due to the immense work done the current compliance status of the SLCAA is at 54.9%. The team leader further commented on the completion of the designation process for the first Aero

Medical Examiner in Sierra Leone, in line with Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Regulations (SLCARs) and the newly developed Technical Guidance Materials (TGMs), including the appointment of Chief Medical Assessor to the SLCAA. “On adoption and adaptation of PEL and AMS Technical Guidance Materials (CE-5), a total of 33 Chapters of PEL TGMs including forms and checklists were developed in line with Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Regulations (SLCARs) covering all the PEL activities, and a total of 13 Chapters of AMS Technical Guidance Materials including applicable forms and checklists were developed in line with SLCARs covering all Aero Medical activities. All the above await DG Baio’s approval,” he said.

For future activities, Dr. Haggai recommended that immediate review of the SLCARs, issue copies of new PEL TGMs, circulate approved Advisory Circulars to the industry especially those related to Air Traffic Controllers Licensing, and On the Job Training (OJT) for PEL Inspectors. He emphasized the need for more training for staff of PEL department. The Director General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio thanked the team and expressed appreciation for their hard work and commitment to developing PEL and AMS departments. He also commended the Director General of NCAA for answering the call to assist Sierra Leone under the ICAO spirit of “No Country Left Behind”. He urged the team to continue providing the necessary support for the growth of PEL and AMS. DG Baio concluded by assuring the team that the PEL officers of SLCAA will be sent on “On the Job Training (OJT)” in addition to other beneficial training

## Sierra Leone High Commissioner to Ghana Presents Award to SLCAA Director General

OCTOBER 26, 2019

The Sierra Leone High Commissioner to Ghana, Her Excellency Mrs. Francess Anderson has presented an award of appreciation to the Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Moses Tiffa Baio, in recognition of his moral support towards the Commission.

The award was presented in acknowledgement of the Director General’s participation in the launch of Sierra Leone in Ghana News Magazine, the first ever magazine production which has helped in strategically positioning Sierra Leone internationally.

Presenting the award at the Director’s Office in Freetown, Her Excellency Mrs. Francess Anderson expressed appreciation to the SLCAA Director General for his display of patriotism towards the Commission, adding that his moral support to her work has added great value in developing the Commission. She also mentioned that the Commission has made effort to promote Sierra Leone tourism sector in line with the New Direction Agenda.

“Before now, the Sierra Leone High Commission to Ghana had been a stand-alone Commission. Since my accreditation, I have engaged numerous embassies/commissions to broaden my scope. Today, the Sierra Leone High Commission in Ghana has become a multilateral institution which can partner with other embassies in Ghana for investment and other development purposes. All these great strides would not have been visible without the effort of DG Baio and others,” she said.

Receiving the award on his behalf, the Deputy Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Mrs. Fatu-Maria Wurie Conteh, complimented the work of the High Commissioner in promoting the Sierra Leone, stating further that the Direct General’s support to Her Excellency Francess Anderson was one of the many moral support he has undertaken in pushing development agenda in various sectors. She assured the High Commissioner of the Director’s continued support to achieve her diplomatic goal.

## SLCAA and ACI Commence APEX Review for Airport Assessment

JULY 30, 2019

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) and the Airport Council International (ACI) have commenced the Airport Excellence (APEX) in safety programme for the review

of the Freetown International Airport. The Airport Excellence in Safety programme is a five-day event carried out by the ACI to respond to aviation safety worldwide. The programme is designed to assist airports of all sizes with a goal to improve their level of safety and compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

In his presentation, the Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Moses Tiffa Baio recalled his maiden meeting with the ACI team in Abuja June this year where he informed ACI about the state commitment in enhancing its safety ratings to match up with the Abuja Safety Targets of which airport certification is a key criterion.

“During our discussion, I reiterated the need for an Apex Review which would serve as part of



preparatory stage of the certification project for Freetown International Airport. This has been one of the key policy priority programmes of HE President Julius Maada Bio to transform the aviation industry and enhance aviation safety of Sierra Leone," he said.

The Director of Strategy and Business Development ACI, Romesh Bhoyroo said that meeting government officials was a proving sign of the states' commitment to the process; adding they were here to assess the airport and present an honest report on their findings.

"The review will look at 3 broad areas: identifying the problem(s), looking at the FNA certification process and looking at the Safety Management System. After the APEX Review, the state should be able to have a clearly defined roadmap to solve the posing issues. The ACI will also assist the state with the Africa Airports Development Programme which will provide Sierra Leone with experts and training programmes with no cost attached," he maintained. The General Manager Sierra Leone Airport Authority, Ebenezer Macauley welcomed the team and pledged his full commitment to the process; believing the review was the first step towards achieving the certification of the Freetown International Airport.

After the review process, the Freetown International Airport would have enhanced its level of safety through knowledge of regulatory standards, best operational practices and training needs/options; provided thorough understanding of its own safety performance, identified areas for improved efficiency and better use of resources, allowed access to a pool of expertise, facilitated the mitigation of any safety gaps as required by its specific operating environment, initiated a cycle of continuous improvement.



## SLCAA and ACI conclude Airport Safety Review at FNA



AUGUST 6, 2019  
Friday 26th July, 2019.

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) and the Airport Council International (ACI) have concluded the first ever Airport Excellence (APEX) in safety review program at the Freetown International Airport (FNA).

The five-day event was conducted to assess the level of safety of the airport, identify gaps and provide a strategic road map in pursuit of promoting safer airport operations and cooperation among ICAO, ACI and the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority.

The ACI APEX review focused on safety level of FNA and set the stage for a successful airport certification process in 2020, thus making Sierra Leone comply with ICAO SARPS as well fulfilling a key policy priority of President Bio towards the development of the air transport industry in Sierra Leone.

The process technically focused on various operational areas; runway safety, safety management systems (SMS), aerodrome certification, wildlife hazard management, rescue and firefighting, Emergency response, improvement of the aeronautical information publication (AIP) documentation, movement area maintenance, aerodrome works safety, Apron safety management, disabled aircraft removal, airside vehicle operations and the airport performance review on operational efficiency.

Briefing representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA), SLCAA and SLAA, the head of the delegation Romesh Bhoyroo reiterated the purpose of the APEX review and emphasized that the implementation of the Corrective Action Plan will significantly improve the level of safety of the Aviation Industry in compliance with ICAO SARPs and National Regulations (SLCARs).

"The Airport Excellence in safety program

is important in promoting the Sierra Leone Aviation industry internationally. It demonstrates to global airlines as well as the international aviation community that the aviation sector in Sierra Leone is committed to ensuring that the required safety target which is a key priority is achieved. This is achievable if the relevant authorities are determined and focus on working on all findings highlighted," he said. On the Airports Safety Management System (SMS), Glawdys Akete mentioned that SMS is a fundamental component of the certification process, which constitutes of the airport infrastructure, documentations and standard operating procedures that has to be implemented. She emphasized on the need to conduct a gap analysis in line with establishing an implementation plan that satisfies the ICAO SARPs which will serve as a road map to safety management system implementation.

The General Manager of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority, Ebenezer Macauley expressed his institution's unwavering commitment to ensure prompt implementation of the Corrective action plan and get the airport certified by 2020.

In his closing courtesy, the deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation Sadiq Sillah acknowledged the initiative of the Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority in inviting the team of experts from ACI to conduct a safety review of the airport prior to its certification. He believed that both the SLCAA and SLAA have the capacity to implement all the recommendations submitted by the ACI team of experts. In concluding, he called on all parties concerned to work assiduously in developing the Aviation industry.



## SLCAA and ICAO Launch Safe Fund Project for Sierra Leone

JULY 9, 2019

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and International Civil Aviation Organisation have launched the Safe Fund Project for Sierra Leone at the Presidential Lounge, Freetown International Airport Lungi.



*The Safe Fund Project is an International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) project that is set to assist Sierra Leone resolve its aviation safety deficiencies and strengthen its oversight capabilities in a sustainable manner.*

*Delivering his PowerPoint presentation, the Director-General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Moses Tiffa Baio thanked ICAO for the initiative and support and also the UKCAAi for the executing the project.*

*While analyzing the current rating of Sierra Leone, he highlighted that the International Civil Aviation (ICAO) conducted an audit in 2006 under the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), adding that the outcome of the audit indicated that Sierra Leone had deficiencies in all the eight Critical Elements of the State Safety Oversight System. "The Safe Fund Project is essential to the development of the air transport sector in Sierra Leone. As it stands, Sierra Leone is ranked 43/46 in the Regional Aviation Safety Group for Africa and India Ocean (RASG-AFI) rating with respect to overall effective implementation. Within this group, 52.17% have reached the target of 60% effective implementation with an average of 51% while Sierra Leone rates below the average of RASG-AFI," he said.*

*In his remarks, the ICAO Regional Director, Mam Sait Jallow commented that the commitment of His Excellency the President, Rtd. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio to enhance civil aviation as a priority in Sierra Leone's national development agenda was a clear testimony.*

*He added that a number of assistance mission visits to the State would be conducted by ICAO in Sierra Leone between 2019 and 2020 in order to assess the impact of the project in the relevant areas.*

*"During the 39th Session of the Assembly, Sierra Leone requested further assistance from ICAO to enhance its safety oversight system and subsequently became a beneficiary of the SAFE Fund. The Safe Fund*



*project entails building and strengthening of the safety oversight system of Sierra Leone," he said.*

*Launching the Safe Fund Project, the Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon said the project was a tremendous boost to strengthen safety oversight capabilities of the state.*

*The Minister further mentioned that air transport was projected to double in the next 15 years and based on that, he said current and emerging safety risks were to be addressed proactively to ensure significant capacity expansion was carefully managed and supported through strategic regulatory and infrastructural developments.*

*He concluded by thanking the ICAO President, Dr. Bernard Aliu, Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu, Regional Director Mr. Mam Sait Jallow, the WACAF team in Dakar and the UKCAAi Consultants for their continued support towards the development of the aviation industry in Sierra Leone.*

*Present at the event were Paramount Chief of Kafu Bullom Chiefdom, the General Manager and staff of Sierra Leone Airport Authority, Civil Society Organizations, and the media.*

# SLCAA Celebrates

## ICAO 75TH ANNIVERSARY



OCTOBER 11, 2019

*The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has celebrated the International Civil Aviation Organization's 75th Anniversary of Connecting the World.*

*The event was organised to commemorate ICAO's 75 years of enhancing global civil aviation, producing global plans to coordinate multilateral strategic progress for safety and air navigation, auditing States' civil aviation oversight capabilities in areas of safety and security, and connecting the world to sound economic opportunities.*

*In her opening address, the Deputy Director General, Fatu-Maria Wurie Conteh recalled the establishment of ICAO, following several studies conducted by the United States and its Major Allies. She observed that the US Government extended invitations to 55 States to attend the International Aviation Conference in Chicago of which 54 States attended and 52 two out of the 54 States signed the new Convention on International Civil Aviation.*

*"Today is the first ever event Sierra Leone is undertaking to commemorate ICAO's existence as a body responsible for civil aviation. We join ICAO to celebrate 75 Years of not only connecting the world, but also providing opportunities and stimulating economic growth globally. I consider it a major achievement because it demonstrates Sierra Leone's determination to join the rest of the world*





*She added: "ICAO's core mandate, since establishment, has been to help States achieve the highest possible degree of uniformity in civil aviation regulations, standards, procedures and organization.*

*Today, the story of ICAO is, in many respect, changing the topography of air transport and its related fields."*

*The Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Sadiq Sillah, in his key note address re-emphasized ICAO's significance in enhancing global aviation safety and security by constantly developing technical standards, legal regulations and operating procedures which have been essential to the development of aviation.*

*"The 75 years of connecting the world has been a great milestone for the aviation community. We must reflect on our contributions in making sure air transport is safe, secure, accessible and affordable. Today, I implore us all to not just celebrate the anniversary, but to collectively embrace the opportunity to look back on the principles of ICAO, with a determined mindset, re-strategize and chart the way forward for a better aviation industry in Sierra Leone," he said. The occasion was graced by the Deputy General Manager of Sierra Leone Airport Authority, Chairman of Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Aviation who randomly spoke on the development of aviation industry and the inclusion of more women in the sector.*

*ICAO is a UN specialized body that came into being as result of the International Aviation Conference held in Chicago in 1944. Sierra Leone became a member on the 22nd November 1961.*



# SLCAA Hosts BAGASOO Technical Committee Regulatory Meeting



NOVEMBER 4, 2019

*The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has hosted the third Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organisation (BAGASOO) Technical Committee Regulatory meeting at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Freetown.*

*The BAGASOO Technical Regulatory Committee is responsible for the reviewing and monitoring of comprehensive implementation programmes which entails the review for adoption, adaption or harmonization of regulations or their amendment to enable Member States implement the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).*

*This year's Technical Regulatory Committee meeting is intended to enable Member States define and implement a framework on a common policy towards the harmonization of the regulations of Banjul Accord Group (BAG) States.*

*The Deputy Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Mrs. Fatu-Maria Conteh thanked BAGASOO for giving Sierra Leone another opportunity to host such an important event. She recalled that in the previous meeting held in Abuja this year the committee was able to review the Cooperative Inspectorate Scheme (CIS) including its Legal Framework, adding further that they reviewed the terms of reference for Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) and Air Navigation Services (ANS) under the CIS which are the most important audit areas for Sierra Leone.*



*"I wish to reaffirm that Sierra Leone under the New Direction leadership of President Julius Maada Bio is poised to develop air transport by certifying Freetown International Airport (FNA) in 2020 with improved access to connectivity. Also, we have experienced an unprecedented commitment to settle current and outstanding international obligations to which BAGASOO has benefited," she said.*

*Speaking on behalf of the BAGASOO Executive Director, Hector Ideawor noted that BAGASOO has had three meetings (2011, 2013 and 2017) since its inception in 2010.*

***"Aviation is a dynamic sector, in that its changing nature has often been characterized by the new and changing technologies, procedures and systems. BAGASOO recently went through the Global Aviation Safety Oversight System (GASOS) assessment conducted by ICAO under the pilot scheme. The organization recorded an impressive score of 85.5%. We are therefore faced with an ever-growing challenge of being consistent. It involves a continuous revision of generic documents, regulations, guidance materials and procedures in order to be beneficial to users," he***

*While commending the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for sponsoring this event and providing strong partnership with BAGASOO, he also mentioned that one of the impact has been an increasing pace in the generation of new requirements and amendments to existing ones.*

*He reiterated BAGASOO's commitment to provide Member States the needed support within the limits of its mandate, adding that States are invited to take full advantage of the services of BAGASOO as bona fide of the BAG group of States.*



# SLCAA launches Airport Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

AUGUST 6, 2019

Wednesday 24th July, 2019  
The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, and Ministry of Health and Sanitation has launched the Airport Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

The plan aimed at preparing and maintaining the capacity to respond to public health events by preventing the introduction, transmission or spread of communicable diseases at the Freetown International Airport.

Representing the SLCAA, the Deputy Director-General (Technical) Mrs. Fatu Maria Conteh observed that the SLCAA was not only concerned about the

safety and security of the traveling public, but was willing to comply fully with all other connections and treaties that support civil aviation growth.

"We were taken by surprise when Ebola struck in 2014, and we are aware of its devastating effect on our country especially the travelling public. Therefore, we cannot allow it to happen again; hence, the SLCAA has provided

the requisite support for all stakeholders involved in the development of this plan," she said.

Launching the Plan, the Minister of Transport and Aviation Hon. Kabineh Kallon recalled the Government of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the World Health Organization issued a global alert for the occurrence of EBOLA in May 2014, the "As WHO declared Sierra Leone Ebola free, there was the urgent need to develop and maintain an

collaborative effort of the SLCAA, Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and some international partners like WHO, IOM, CDC-USA and other local NGOs, implemented series of measures to contain the spread of the virus and with those measures no case of Ebola was exported overseas through the country's air border.

Airport Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan that is generic and compliant with International Health

Regulation (2005) and the ICAO Annex 9 requirements. Today, I can proudly say as a State we have one," he said.

Representing the Ministry of Health, Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Samba noted the call to have an airport health response plan was deliberate to remind actors that public health threats were part of their lives, adding further that the plan was a clarion call for multi-sector approach to health service delivery.



# SLCAA DG SAYS SUCCESS IN TOURISM DEPENDS ON IMPROVED AVIATION SYSTEM

JULY 10, 2019

*The Director-General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Moses Tiffa Baio says the growth of Tourism industry in Sierra Leone is largely dependent on the improvement of the Aviation system.*

*He made this disclosure during an exclusive interview with Newday Magazine at his office in Freetown. He noted that Tourism and Aviation are interwoven, commenting that the two sectors are inextricably linked in the development of a nation. In establishing the structure of interdependence, he mentioned that Tourism depends on air transportation for accessibility, while air transport industry depends on tourism for revenue generation.*

*“There is a huge potential for the growth of the two industries in Sierra Leone. Aviation is always linked with tourism as each industry relies on the other for growth. If we can open the domestic operations to complement the international routes, it can help create the desired growth and a shining future for Aviation and Tourism industries,” he said.*

*Mr. Baio also mentioned that boosting the Tourism sector was part of President Bio’s development agenda, as he considered it a main revenue generation drive that would provide jobs for Sierra*

*reduce the economic over-reliance on the mining sector*

*“The importance of Aviation to tourism development cannot be overemphasized, as aviation has been a focal point to the tourism industry. I acknowledge that there are challenges in the Aviation industry currently, but with the commitment of key players we will overcome the odds. An improvement in Aviation, especially domestic*

*air transportation will enhance tourism movements; thus, the revival of domestic air transport will help achieve the goal of tourism in the country,” he added.*

*He concluded by noting that accessibility was the key variable to was growth in tourism, for without it, excursions are impossible. He emphasized that all hands must be on deck to create a win-win situation for both the aviation and tourism industries, adding that a boom in the Aviation industry is a possible boom in Tourism industry.*

*SLCAA Will Achieve  
Safety and Security  
Level by 2020: ICAO*



APRIL 7, 2019

*ICAO REGIONAL DIRECTOR BELIEVES SIERRA LEONE WILL ACHIEVE SAFETY AND SECURITY COMPLIANCE LEVEL BY 2020*

*The Regional Director of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, Mam Sait Jallow has—on Thursday 4th October 2018 said that Sierra Leone has the capacity to reach aviation compliance level for safety and security by 2020 under the astute leadership of the Director General of Civil Aviation Authority, Moses Tiffa Baio.*

*He made this disclosure when making a PowerPoint presentation to the Minister of Transport and Aviation and other key stakeholders at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation,*

Youyi Building. He said that the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has a responsibility to promote air transport in compliance with international best practices, and it is on this note that the organisation coined the theme: “Collaborating to develop International Civil Aviation”.

“I believe Sierra Leone can eclipse the compliance level in safety and security in spite of the numerous challenges. But the government has a greater role to play in making that a reality. Air transportation plays a significant role in boosting the economy as it provides employment opportunities and contributes to the country’s GDP. Improving air transport means promoting economic diversification in areas such as tourism, agriculture, trade, aviation etc. Sierra Leone is at 20% compliance level in terms of safety, which is far below the 60% safety margin set by African Ministers responsible for Aviation in Abuja which is known as the Abuja Safety Targets.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation Hon. Kabineh M. Kallon said what ICAO currently is doing is in line with President Bio’s New Direction Policy to improve on aviation services. While referencing the New Direction he mentioned that air transportation facilitates the movement of persons and goods in and out of the country and promotes trade and integration, serves as a catalyst for job creation and boosts economic diversification, economic growth and development. He continued by noting that it was because of its significance that the president re-echoed its improvement during the State

Opening of Parliament. He assured Mr. Jallow that the government, specifically the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, will work assiduously with CAA and SLAA to reach the 60% target by 2020.

As noted in the New Direction he ended by saying that the government will work in consonance with the ECOWAS Vision 2020 to improve the Air Transport sector by developing a sound and seamless regional air transport system that is safe, reliable, efficient and affordable, well connected within West Africa and integrated with the global network.

Aviation by providing assistance to the pilgrims; provided regulatory function which included assisting the facilitation process in accordance with Annex 9 of the ICAO Document, conducted Foreign Airlines Safety Assessment Program (FASAP) before boarding, granted landing permit and advised on operational issues.

The head of the SLCAA facilitation team, Osman Jalloh said it was a normal routine for the SLCAA to provide facilitation during every Hajj departure and this year was not an exception. He commented further that the Authority is committed to guaranteeing the safety and security of all citizens who have met the requirement to perform the function.



# SLCAA SUPPORTS HAJJ FACILITATION PROCESS

AUGUST 7, 2019

Monday 5th August, 2019  
The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority has supported the successful facilitation process of the 2019 Hajj Pilgrimage to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The Authority facilitated the departure of 900 pilgrims in total of which the first batch 450 pilgrims departed on Saturday 3rd August 2019 and the second batch of 450 on Monday 5th August 2019.

Hajj is believed to be a submission to Allah and a fundamental Islamic requirement which all adult Muslims are mandated to perform once in their lifetime.

Among the major roles played by SLCAA, the facilitating team complemented the effort of the Hajj Committee, Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and

NOVEMBER 26, 2019

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has won the Aviation Football Gala 2019 organized at the Central Field in Lungi.

The two-day competition, which took place on Friday 22nd November and

Saturday 23rd November 2019, was marked as the first ever football gala organized by the aviation industry, as four industry heavyweight locked horns for this year’s enviable trophy.

The theme of the competition primarily focused on the promotion of safety and security culture at the Freetown International Airport (FNA) through enhanced informal interaction and communication amongst aviation stakeholders.

Taking the kick off for the commencement of the final match of the competition, the Deputy Minister of

# SLCAA WINS AVIATION TROPHY





*Transport and Aviation said he felt elated for the initiation and organization of the gala, adding further that the goal of competition was to exclusively promote unity and progress among industry partners. He cautioned the contenders not to deviate from the theme, but to rather play in the unity of the game.*

*The Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Moses Tiffa Baio explained the*

*reason for the gala, emphasizing on the need to promote safety and security culture amongst aviation partners through interaction. He urged all industry stakeholders present to continue the trend in the ensuing years.*

*“The main focus of the competition is to bring all aviation stakeholders under one roof with the view of creating an interactive atmosphere for the effective implementation of their various job activities. Unity is a prerequisite for the smooth running of the industry; therefore, we must use football as a platform to achieve unity. In aviation, there are no losers; the victory of one is collective. I thank the organizers, match commissioners and the players for their display of sportsmanship, as the ultimate goal of the competition was achieved,” he said.*

*Receiving the trophy on behalf the team, the SLCAA Captain, Andrew Masuba said the trophy was a manifestation of hard work, commenting further that the trophy would be a great achievement to the SLCAA. He expressed appreciation in leading the team to two straight victories and thanked the*



*team for bestowing such an honour on him. He concluded by noting that the result was a demonstration of commitment, and with the same commitment they look forward to winning more trophies.*

*The competition was played among the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), Immigration and the Westminster Aviation Security Services (WASS). The opening encounter was played between SLCAA and WASS, whilst Immigration and SLAA played the second match. SLCAA and Immigration then proceeded to the final in which the former won by two goals to nil.*

*Certificates were awarded to the Player of the competition, the top goal scorer, the golden glove winner and the best team of the competition.*



# The Minister of Transport and Aviation Meets ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau

OCTOBER 10, 2019

*The Sierra Leone delegation to the ICAO 40th Triennial Assembly led by the Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon has made a follow up meeting with the Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB) for the development of Civil Aviation Master Plan for Sierra Leone.*



The proposed Civil Aviation Master Plan, which comprises airport master plan, Air Navigation plan, security and facilitation plan, is essential for the growth of a sound air transport project that will ensure the growth, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of Civil Aviation in compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon said the development of the Air Transport Master Plan to foster the development of an economically viable civil aviation system was a key policy initiative of President Julius Maada Bio as referenced in his State Opening Address in May last year, and as the Minister responsible for aviation, he added that Aviation Master Plan must be one of the government's key achievement.

In addition to the Minister's statement, the Director General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Moses Tiffa Baio recalled a team from Sierra Leone met with the Bureau during the Air Navigation Conference last year requesting for their assistance to develop a Civil Aviation Master for Sierra Leone. He added that the Bureau had expressed commitment by assigning a focal person and promising to draft a terms of reference for the project.

"The Civil Aviation Master Plan is essentially important for the modernization, rehabilitation and growth of the air transport sector in Sierra Leone. In the period of waiting, we received a resubmission of draft proposal from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) which we forwarded to the Technical Cooperation Bureau. We told IATA that we were already in discussion with TCB. We forwarded the draft copy from IATA but we did not receive and response from the Bureau," he said.

The Director of ICAO Technical Bureau Cooperation, Jorge Vargas noted the significance of the Civil Aviation Master Plan to the State. "What we are going to do in order to achieve this goal is to take up the responsibility and move as fast as possible to submit the first draft of the document. We commit ourselves to submit the first draft of the Civil Aviation Master Plan in two weeks' time.

We guarantee transparency in every document we provide to Member States and we ensure that all services delivered will be in full compliance with ICAO SARPs," he assured.

The Director of the Bureau appreciated the level of trust and confidence the team from Sierra Leone had in the Bureau, especially in carrying out the proposed project, adding it was the responsibility of TCB to provide Member States with technical expertise, procurement services, trainings and fellowships. He also proposed a Skype Conversation later this month to discuss more on the proposed Master Plan and training needs of the SLCAA. The Head of Project Development Unit of TCB, Guillermo Iovino emphasized that the responsibility of the Bureau was to integrate the Airport Master Plan, Air Navigation Plan, Security, Facilitation, infrastructure and environment into the Civil Aviation Master Plan to ensure compatibility. Discussions were also made on fellowship programmes for Sierra Leone which the representatives of the Bureau assured they would look into.



# Transair Commences Flight Operations in Sierra Leone on Monday 18 November, 2019.

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

In a bid to promote regional connectivity and to make air transport accessible to Sierra Leoneans in line with the New Direction mandate, Transair-Senegal has commenced its inaugural flight operation at the Freetown International Airport (FNA), Lungi.

Transair, which launched its first operation in 2010, is a Senegalese carrier based in Yoff Airport, Dakar. Transair will provide flight from Freetown to Senegal twice a week at a cost-effective rate. The 50-seater ERJ 145 carrier operates freight and passenger chartered services from Dakar to other regional destinations in West Africa.



The inaugural operation started with the conduction of Foreign Airlines Safety Assessment Program (FASAP), which is the normal routine inspection conducted by the SLCAA's flight operations team in accordance with ICAO Annex 9 Document. It followed by the inspection of the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation and team.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Sadiq Silla, in his keynote address commended Sierra Leone's performance in the recent ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP), stating that the 69% in the said audit was largely due to government's commitment to improve on the sector.

"We have made immense progress in the aviation sector: the visa on arrival policy; the SLCAA Act which was rated 100% during the ICAO Audit, the 34% reduction on aviation charges at the Airport together with the Billing and Settlement Plan are all steps taken to provide the much needed result for the industry. Transair has added more weight to the aviation industry; more so its arrival came at a time the Government of Sierra Leone has exempt GST on all aviation related charges.



*We assure the Transair administration of government's commitment to strengthen the relation between Sierra Leone and Senegal," he said.*

*Speaking on behalf of the Director General, the Acting Director General Mrs. FatuMaria Wurie Conteh, expressed her delight to witness and participate in the inaugural flight operation of Transair which, she said, started a year ago as bilateral discussions between His Excellency Julius Maada Bio and His Excellency Macky Sall in a bid to improve and increase connectivity in the spirit of implementing both the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).*

*"The benefits of having a direct flight from Freetown to Dakar through Banjul will not only reduce cost significantly, but also ease the time burden on passengers. Before today, a trip to and from Freetown to Dakar would take about 10 hours, but with Transair's direct flight, a trip from Freetown to Dakar will be one hour and half flight. The exemption of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from all aviation related charges is a testament of this government desire to improve the airport transport sector. We wish Transair all the best as we hope for a continued cooperation," she said.*

*Representative of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), Mr. Bobson Kargbo warmly welcomed the Transair delegation, noting that the*

*Authority has been looking forward to receiving more for the development of the air transport sector in Sierra Leone. While commenting further, he mentioned that the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, SLCAA, SLAA, and service providers are working effortlessly to create the enabling environment for aviation business to thrive in Sierra Leone by automatically reducing taxes on other airport charges as directive was issued.*

*Addressing the gathering, the Head of the delegation Mr. Alhaji Faye said that the goal of Transair was not only to provide facilitation for Sierra Leoneans, but also to make Sierra Leone a hub for air transport in the world. He added: "Our business is specifically set up with the aim to bring quality and reliable services. As we aspire to provide value for money to our clients, Transair solution guarantee careful and thought-out planning and coordination of the chain of services provided by different teams in assisting aircraft, ramp service, passenger assistance on line maintenance. We seek to continuously innovate the delivery of our services to ensure our customers receive excellent travel experience."*

*The Ambassador to Senegal, His Excellency Alhaji Brima Koroma also expressed his delight in the government's pursuit to develop the sector, which he said, has been demonstrated on the recent GST exemption from all aviation related charges; concluding that Transair would be the first low-cost airline company in Sierra Leone*

*The two Protocols and Convention were ratified by the House of Parliament, Sierra Leone on the 29th August*

*2019, together with the Repeal and Replacement of the Civil Aviation Act, 2019. Laying the Protocols and Convention, the Honourable Minister said the move to ratify the Protocols was a show of commitment on the side of the State, adding that the ratified Protocols and Convention would help to strengthen aviation security.*

*"I present to you a copies of two Protocols and one Convention that were ratified by the Parliament of Sierra Leone. The following Protocols were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday 29th August 2019 and were ratified on the same day," the Minister said.*

*Hon. Kallon added: "The first Protocol was ratified to amend the Convention on offences and certain other acts committed on board aircraft done in Montreal, 4th April, 2014. The second Protocol (Montreal Protocol, 1988) was ratified for the suppression of unlawful acts of violence at airports serving International Civil Aviation, which is a supplement to the Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of Civil Aviation, done in Montreal, on 23rd September, 1971, signed in Montreal on 24th February, 1988; and the third was ratified for the Convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection, 1991."*

*The Protocols were signed to safeguard International Civil Aviation from act committed by unruly passengers on board aircraft. The Protocols emphasized on safety and discipline in relation to increasing threat of accidents due to the behaviour of some passengers.*

# *Transport and Aviation Minister Presents Newly Ratified Protocols to ICAO*

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*OCTOBER 14, 2019*

*The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon presents copies of newly ratified Protocols to ICAO Secretary General for the development of International Civil Aviation and the enhancement of Civil Aviation in Sierra Leone.*