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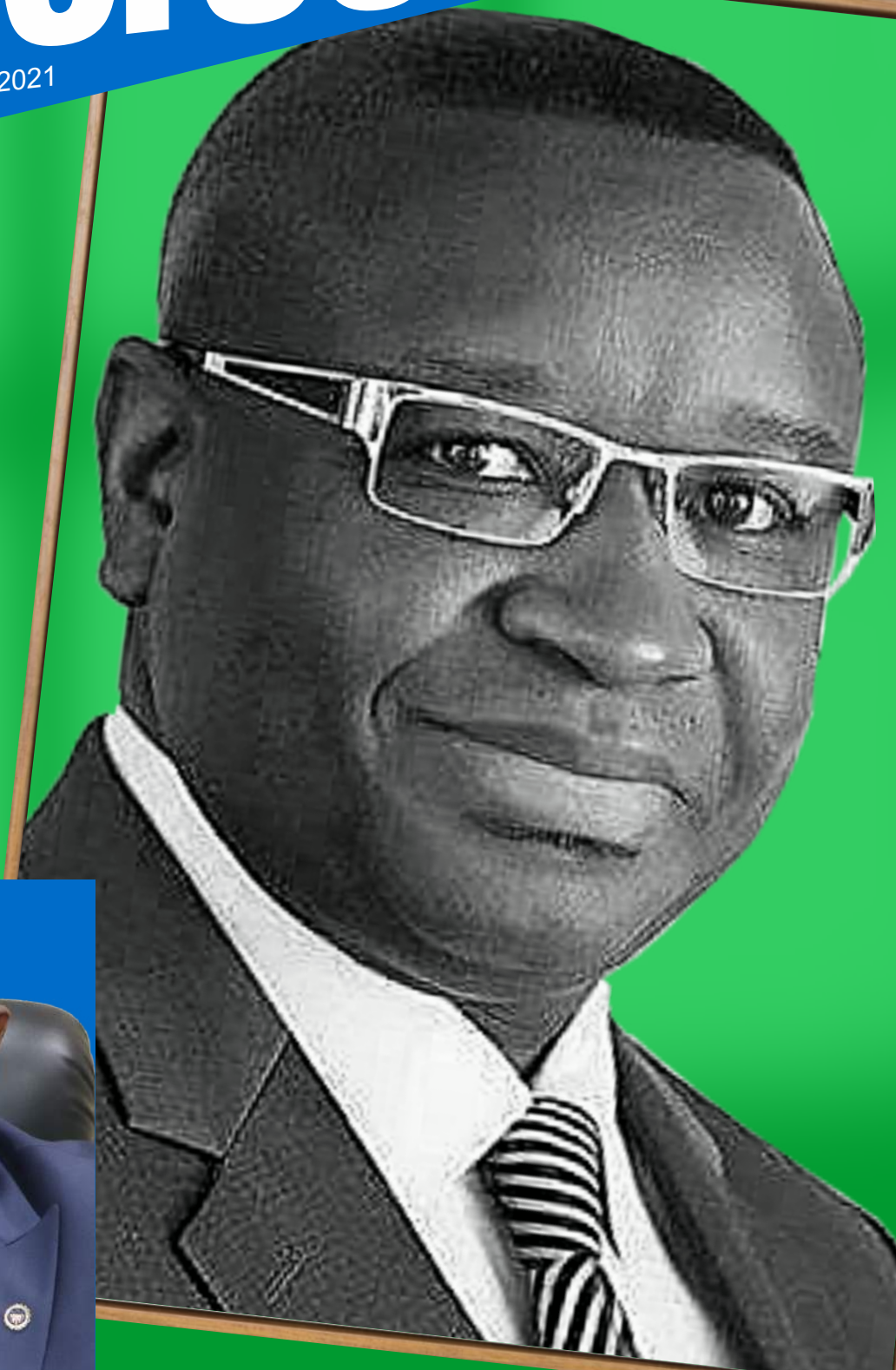


Aviation Scorecard.

Issue No 3 2021

PRESIDENT

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MAADA
BIO'S**
STRIDES IN
AVIATION





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Dear esteemed readers,

On behalf of the Aviation Industry in Sierra Leone, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your continued support of the Aviation Industry during these trying times in the history of our country and the world at large.

The Aviation Industry is unarguably the worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding, the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has made great progress due to our relentless optimism and resilience in the face of adversity.

As an organization and in line with President Bio’s vision of building a sustainable Aviation System in Sierra Leone, the Director General and team, within the period under review carried out numerous safety and security programs, which are steadily moving the Authority in achieving its strategic objectives.

Amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Authority was able to engage its stakeholders both locally and internationally, in preparation for the scheduled International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) **Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA)**. The Director-General paid a courtesy call to the Turkish Ambassador to Sierra Leone. The key purpose of that visit was to STRENGTHEN the relationship between the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Turkey.

The ICAO Western and Central African (WACAF) Office also engaged the SLCAA on progress made in preparation for the ICAO – USOAP CMA. Against that backdrop, the Authority conducted an internal Mock Audit to assess the State’s safety oversight capabilities in the areas of Primary Aviation Legislation and Civil Aviation Regulations (LEG), Technical Guidance Materials (TGMs), and Personnel Technical Training among others.



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Tiffa Baio**
(Director General)

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SLCAA DG PAYS COURTESY VISIT ON THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR

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The Director-General of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), on Friday, paid a courtesy visit on the Turkish Ambassador to Sierra Leone, His Excellency Deha Erpek.

It could be recalled that the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone signed a Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) in Mumbai, India on 22nd October 2011, desiring to facilitate the expansion of International Air Service opportunities, recognising that efficient and competitive international air services could enhance economic growth, trade, tourism, investment and the welfare of consumers.

In his presentation, the DG Baio expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to the Turkish Ambassador for the operation of the Turkish Airline in Sierra Leone.

The Director-General further informed the Ambassador that Sierra Leone has been scheduled for the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) in November this year. establishment and currently providing a storage facility for most of their equipment.

“The State will be audited as against November, we would not want to fail this audit because if we fail it will tell on the economy of the nation, and it will affect airlines operating in Sierra Leone, and Turkish Airline is one of those operating in Sierra Leone.”

“Turkish Embassy is one of those Authorities who we can reach out to in providing support in any area of intervention i.e., logistics, equipment for technical staff to carry out safety surveillance activities at the airport, that will help the State in passing the Safety Audit,” DG Baio noted.

He further underscored that the Sierra Leone provided free office space for Turkish Airlines at the airport during their. He maintained that the airline has excellent services but highlighted a few issues with regard to their operations i.e. No office space within Freetown and no resident Manager to discuss consumer complaints.

The SLCAA Boss concluded by recognising the potential Turkey has in the aviation industry and promised that as an Authority they would do everything within their powers for the airline to continue operations and eventually increase their frequency.

The Turkish Ambassador to Sierra Leone, HE Deha Erpek, in his response, commended the SLCAA for the strides taken in making the aviation Industry in Sierra Leone very competitive. HE Deha Erpek disclosed that they were ready to support the SLCAA in passing the scheduled ICAO Safety Audit.

“We will welcome whatever request from the SLCAA in making sure that they pass the ICAO Safety Audit,” the Ambassador reiterated.

He added that the Embassy had been pushing for Turkish Airlines to have an office space in Freetown and if not for the COVID-19 Pandemic, he furthered, the airline would have secured one in Freetown.

“During this COVID-19 Pandemic, Turkish Airline suffered huge financial loss, and as a result, they had to close most of their offices around the world,” the Ambassador revealed.

HE Deha Erpek maintained that: “At the moment Turkish Airline is enjoying a perfect relationship with the travelling public and promised to inform the Turkish Airline management about the visit of the DG and team.”

He thanked the SLCAA for the prompt and efficient reply to all communicate sent to the Authority and assured the DG and team of his continued support where needed.



WACAF Engages SLCAA on Scheduled ICAO USOAP Audit



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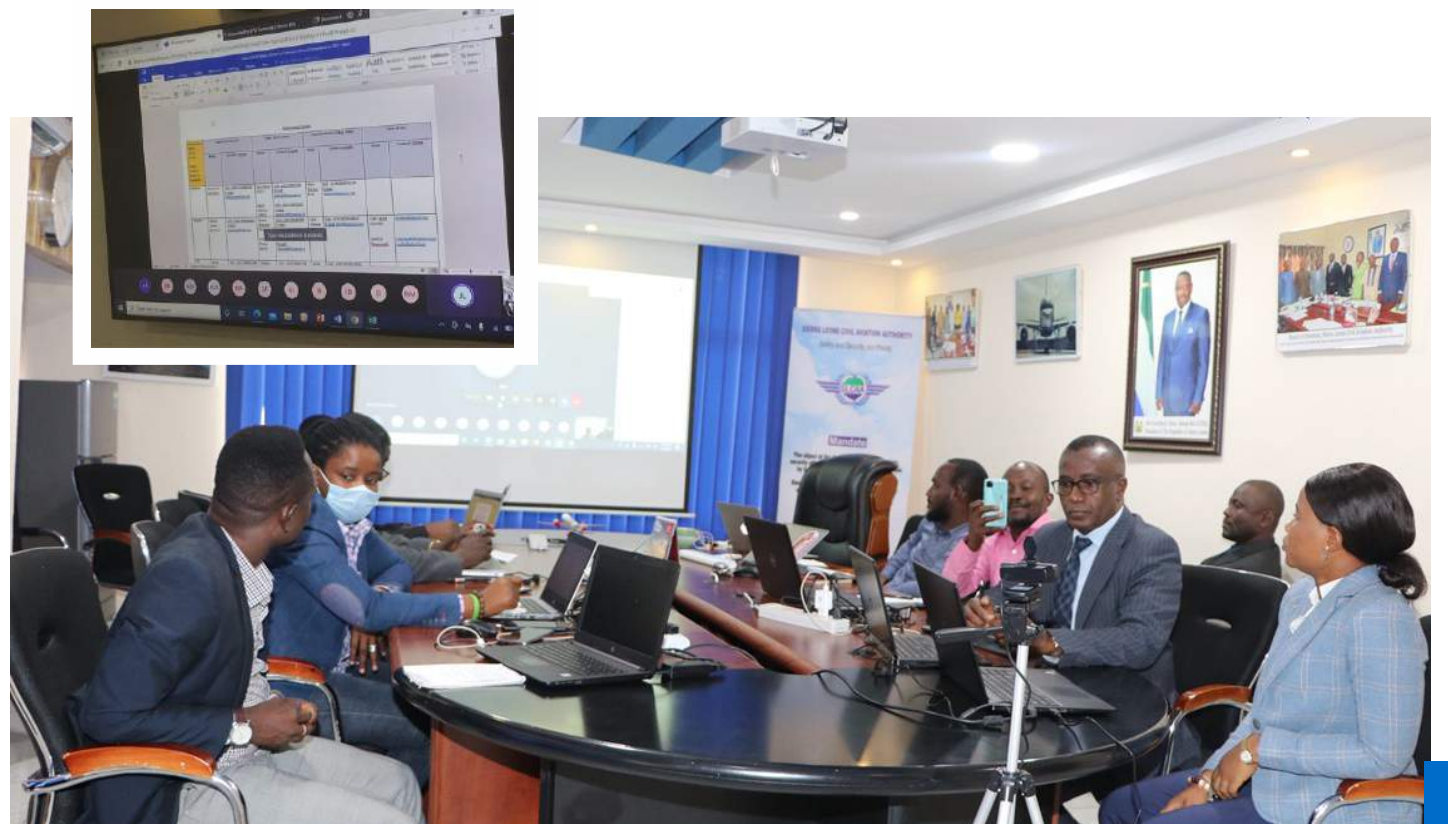
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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION MAKES CONDUCTED TOUR AT THE SLCAA

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon Kabineh Kallon and his Deputy has on Friday made a conducted tour at the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) head office.

It should be noted that the SLCAA is one of the Government agencies that are under the supervision of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, charged with the responsibility of providing oversight in the aviation industry in accordance with Civil Aviation Regulations and Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Chairman of the Board of Directors SLCAA, Patrick Jaia Kaikai, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the SLCAA formally welcomed the Hon. Minister and his delegation.

“Hon Minister, on assuming office as the chairman of the Board of Directors of this great institution, we are continuously bent on making SLCAA a strong and vibrant institution and I am happy to tell you that development plan has already taken off,” the Chairman disclosed.

The Board Chairman also expressed that their mandate as Board of Directors was to provide policy guidance and ensure probity in the financial management of the Authority.

“We will continue making sure that SLCAA will stand the test of time and we will meet the demands of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other Aviation bodies both international and regional. We are happy to see you and your team here, this is an indication of your dream to see that the Ministry moves forward with no agency left behind,” the Chairman ended.

The Permanent Secretary, Brima Munda Sowa, in his short statement, started by reflecting on the Ministry's Performance Delivery Retreat organised in Bo last year.

“Our aim in the Transport Ministry is to transform the Aviation sector in Sierra Leone and we are calling on every one of you to join this train and support in any way you could to make this dream a reality. Government is now very much vigorous in monitoring our performance, and so I call on us all to put on that delivery cap,” the PS said.

In his address to the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the SLCAA, the Hon Minister expressed his admiration of the entire Administration and Management of the SLCAA.

“SLCAA is one of those Agencies under my supervision that is doing very well in making sure that the Transport Ministry delivers on its key mandates. Before 2018, SLCAA could not be heard anywhere in Sierra Leone, just a little over two years Mr. DG, you have transformed this Institution that has become more enviable,” the Minister said.

“Let me reveal also Mr. DG, that you have not only transformed this building that was an eyesore some two years back, but you have also built the capacity of your staff which is very much commendable. His Excellency the President has made it very clear that this is not the time to give excuses, and as a Ministry, our focus is to deliver on our key mandates,” he maintained.



The Hon. Minister, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation expressed, his sincere condolences to the SLCAA for the loss of its former employee, Joseph Sam Abokie, former Personnel Licensing Manager who passed away on January 16, 2021.

“Let me end by reminding you all that this is not the last visit. We will continue making an unannounced visit to all agencies under my Ministry,” the Minister concluded.



In his closing courtesy, the Director-General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio expressed thanks to the Minister for his visit, **“This is a clear demonstration of strong political will on the part of the President Bio led administration in support for the development of the Aviation industry in Sierra Leone,”** DG Baio said.

DG Baio assured the Hon. Minister that the SLCAA will remain to be one of the most dependable institutions under the watch of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation which the Ministry should rely on in terms of achieving the deliverables set in the performance contract signed with His Excellency the President.

DG Baio further informed the Minister on the certification of the Freetown International Airport (FNA) and the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) scheduled in November 2021

“If you look at where we have come within this short time, it tells you that there are complete stability and unity of purpose within the SLCAA,” DG Baio asserted.



MTA HOSTS THE NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT FACILITATION COMMITTEE



Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA) on Monday hosted the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee to discuss issues surrounding the passenger experience on arrival at the Freetown International Airport.

The main purpose of the meeting was to review the travel process at the Arrival Hall of the Freetown International Airport (FNA), identify gaps and bring out suggestions to address the gaps highlighted.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon, in his remarks, revealed that government was concerned about the state of affairs on the facilitation process implemented at the Freetown International Airport Lungi, adding that there were few concerns from the travelling public which, he believed, the committee should address.

“Since the reopening of the airport, I am pleased to inform you all that government is satisfied with the collaboration and cooperation between NaCOVERC and the Aviation Industry Stakeholders. The passenger processing on the arrival at FNA has posed very serious challenges for which we consider it as a cause for concern, which has the tendency to mitigate our desire to fly in or out of the country,” the Minister said.

The Hon. Minister ended by calling on the committee to provide solutions to these problems and see how they could make the Air Transport Sector attractive and lively once again.

Giving the overview of the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, the SLCAA Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio noted that the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme was from our national laws, which was also a transposition from Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

“Principally, this talks about the expeditious movement of passengers in and out of the Freetown International Airport. But then, the emergence of COVID-19 has added another burden on the travelling public which is something we are not averse to some of the stringent measures that have been implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. What other airports are trying to do is to make sure that passengers travelling to different destinations do not experience more air travel ordeals,” DG Baio observed.

DG Baio further stated that the Aviation Industry was struggling to get people back to flying and the committee's primary focus should basically look at some of the public health measures implemented at the airport.

“Specifically, we are looking at the arrival process from the moment passengers disembark from the aircraft go through the health protocol, the additional screening is done by SECURIPORT, Immigration, Customs, NaCOVERC and onto the last point in crossing over to Freetown without compromising the health protocols put in place, we need to see how best we can address some of these concerns from the travelling public,” the DG said.

DG Baio reaffirmed that the Civil Aviation Authority was charged with the responsibility of implementing Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). He concluded by admitting the Aviation Industry was glad that the issue of collecting passports from arriving passengers had been rescinded.

On the side of NaCOVERC, Col. Hassan Coomber, Operations Pillar Lead disclosed that they have been doing fine in terms of COVID-19 restrictions even though there is still a need for improvement. **“We have taken off the inter-district restriction, as well as giving access to all passengers travelling through the airport,”** Col. Coomber stated.

Col. Coomber also expressed there had been overcrowding at the airport and this, according to NaCOVERC, is an alarming concern for the transmission of the virus. Based on this worrying development, he added, NaCOVERC had been engaging key stakeholders on the need to have a seamless process at the airport.

Representing the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), the Deputy General Manager, Bobson Kargbo informed the Committee on the introduction of key health measures implemented at the airport to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. the Deputy GM added: **“We have made it mandatory to wear a face mask at the airport. We have also installed handwashing facilities within the airport. We will also be embarking on massive public education to inform the travelling public about the health protocols that have been put in place.”**

On behalf of the Board of Airlines Representative (BAR), Estelle Van Eeckhout from Brussels Airlines confirmed the airport's congestion, adding that: **“For the passenger Health Locator Forms (HLF), some Airlines do give it onboard the aircraft but we have noticed that the information they fill on the HLF is the same with what they filled on the travel portal,”** Estelle said.

The committee resolved that the SECURIPORT data collection system be merged with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation DHIS 2 system, to mitigate the duplication of data collection at the airport.

Photo Collage







SLCAA ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS ON TRAVEL GUIDELINES AT FNA



The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has engaged NaCOVERC, Board of Airlines Representatives (BAR) and Sierra Leone Association of Travel Agents (SLATA) on the implementation of the health protocol guidelines for seamless operations at the Freetown International Airport (FNA).

SLCAA's Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio, in his address expressed that the implementation of some of the COVID-19 measures at the Freetown International Airport has negatively affected the traveling public.

“When passengers are tested positive for Covid-19, they do have challenges with their tickets changed to another date either by the Airlines or Travel Agents. Most of these passengers also do forfeit their tickets for failure to pay the additional cost” DG Baio said.

The DG further mentioned that stakeholders should not look at the technicalities surrounding the process of changing tickets, rather, the best interest of the travelling public who are the consumers of their products.

The DG further mentioned that stakeholders should not look at the technicalities surrounding the process of changing tickets, rather, the best interest of the travelling public who are the consumers of their products.

“Yes, the implementation of some of these health protocol guidelines have negatively affected the travelling public and citizens are crying out loud,” he lamented.

DG Baio called on stakeholders to develop a travel bulletin to give to passengers who are tested positive of COVID-19, as it will further guide them on the next step in an event, they are tested positive of the virus. He further encouraged stakeholders to also embark on massive public education which he believes would help address the many concerns from the travelling public.

“Since the re-opening of the airport in July 2020, we have been doing very well within the sub-region and the Government is very much pleased with the collaboration within the Aviation Industry,” DG Baio ended.

Representing NaCOVERC, the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare Hon. Mohamed Haji-Kella, who also doubles as the Psycho-Social Pillar Lead at NaCOVERC, started by sharing stories of passengers who are victims of this unfortunate situation.

The Hon. Deputy Minister expressed that NaCOVERC was very much thankful for the collaboration within the Aviation Industry since the re-opening of the airport, and they were ready to give the necessary support to the industry.

Responding on behalf of the BAR, Estelle Van Eeckhout from Brussels Airline revealed that there were more flexible tickets that could be changed free of charge and those not so flexible.

She furthered that Airlines did have an integrated revenue management system that was automated and controlled by their different head offices, and that changing those tickets was not as easy as passengers would think.

“When passengers are asked to pay a certain sum for a ticket that has been issued, it is not the change fee but rather the fare difference for the available seat as the case may be. This fare regime is the same for all airlines. Some tickets can only be changed by the travel agents through whom they were purchased” she maintained.

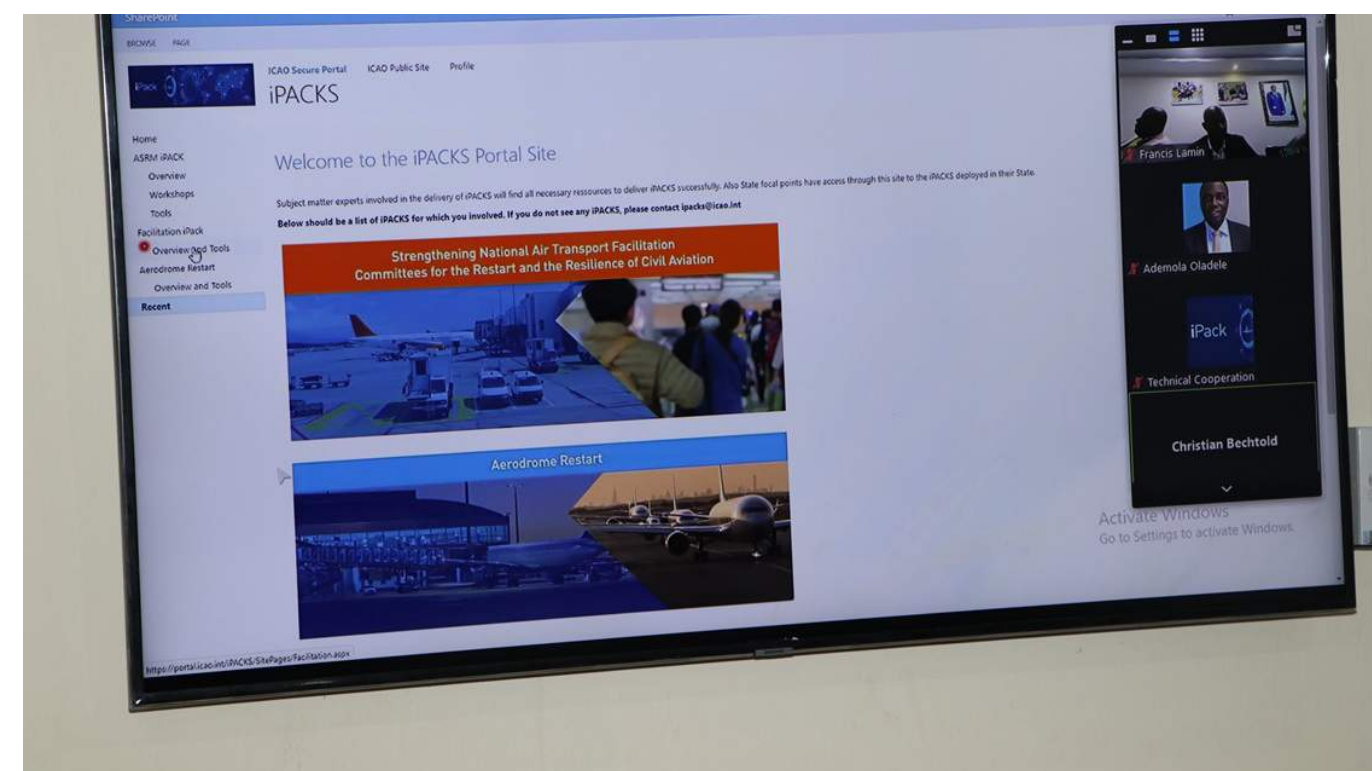
Estelle ended by calling on passengers to immediately inform the Airlines or the Travel Agents from which they purchased their tickets once they have been tested positive of COVID-19.

On the side of SLATA, the Interim Chairman, John E Rogers assured stakeholders that he would communicate the outcome of the meeting to the entire membership and would ask travel agents to display the health protocol guidelines on their notice boards for ease of reference.

“At the moment, we are also trying to have a hotline so that passengers can call should there be any challenge with their tickets thereafter,” he disclosed.

The meeting resolved that Passengers testing positive should immediately call their Airlines and inform them, so that arrangement would be made for a reservation after the mandatory 14 days quarantine.

ICAO AND SLCAA DISCUSS IPACK DEPLOYMENT



The International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) has engaged the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) on the Deployment of iPack to strengthen the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP).

The objective of the meeting was to support the strengthening of the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme for the restart and Resilience of Civil Aviation implementation package (iPack).

iPack is a bundle of standardized guidance material, training, tools, and expert support which aims to facilitate and guide the implementation of ICAO provisions for State entities (e.g., Governments, Civil Aviation Authorities, National Air Transport Facilitation Committees), aviation service providers, supply chain stakeholders and their personnel.

On behalf of ICAO, Christian Bechtold, the Field Project Officer while thanking participants of the Zoom Video Conference, revealed that this was the first iPack to be rolled out within the sub-region. He disclosed that the Project Expert would work with the SLCAA on how to address these components according to the specifics of the need's analysis.



“Let me further inform you that there are three main components of iPack: Facilitation training, Documentations which will be made available to the SLCAA team, and the Implementation support,” he said.

“The expert is there to provide recommendations to the State during the iPack implementation, the SLCAA will in turn work on these recommendations and make the different changes that are suggested. Successful implementation of the iPack will depend greatly on SLCAA's ability to follow these recommendations,” he underscored.

He continued on the roles and responsibilities: “The main work will be done between the Expert and the CAA with contacts of the different activities. Technical support will also be provided by the ICAO Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal.”

Christian ended by noting they were going to review the need's analysis questionnaire that had been developed by the SLCAA. Based on the outcome of the review, he furthered, the Regional Officer together with the Facilitation Officer from ICAO Headquarters would determine which objectives they had to focus on to prioritize the iPack deliverables.

Representing the SLCAA Director-General, the Director of Aviation Security and Facilitation, Kugbei Tucker stated that SLCAA considered the iPack implementation programme very much important, adding that the State had put together the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme Committee which had been in existence for five years.

“At the Airport level, we also have the facilitation committee and they meet regularly to look at concerns from the travelling public, but with the emergence of COVID-19, we must have an integrated approach to see how best we can collaborate as stakeholders in the Aviation Industry,” Director Tucker explained during the Video Conference.

Director Tucker ended that SLCAA welcomes the idea and cannot wait to see the start of the implementation of this programme.

SLCAA'S AVSEC STAFF CONCLUDE SECURITY AUDITING TECHNIQUES COURSE



Aviation Security and Facilitation (AvSEC) staff at the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) have concluded a five-day course on Aviation Security Auditing Techniques.

Conducted by the Singapore Aviation Academy, the course aims at providing the required knowledge and skills in Aviation Security Auditing Techniques for AvSEC staff to effectively conduct compliance audits and manage quality control programmes.

This course also enhances the awareness of aviation security managers and supervisors on auditing procedures and techniques in line with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 17 (Security) and the ICAO Document 8973 (Security Manual).

During the 2019 ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA), it could be recalled that the SLCAA scored 71%, which is above the Regional Average of 65%.

Fourteen SLCAA staff and three Republic of Sierra Leone Arm Forces RSLAF personnel attached to the Air Wing at the Freetown International Airport (FNA), totalling seventeen participants, participated in the course.



Speaking on the impact of the five-day capacity building programme, Bamie Tua Penyikie, AvSEC officer, expressed elation in the content of the course. He said that the five-day course covered: Introduction to aviation security quality control, definition, and contents of audit/inspection programme, Preparation techniques for an audit/inspection, Audit/inspection methodology, Audit/inspection techniques, and Profile of the auditor, which he noted, are essential to his work. The SLCAA Director of Aviation Security and Facilitation, Kugbei Tucker, acknowledged the relevance of the course to the operations of Aviation Security and Facilitation at the Freetown International Airport, adding that: **“With this training, the AvSEC staff have now gained the required knowledge in providing Aviation Security Oversight and helped us to understand in a better way how to carry out audit exercises at the Airport”**.

He continued by revealing that before now there were challenges in implementing the USAP CMA but the course has a platform to understand all the dynamics involved with better knowledge on pre, during and post aviation security audit exercises. He observed that this was one of the findings of the 2019 USAP CMA audit under Training and Certification. **“We believe that during the next USAP CMA audit scheduled for 2022, SLCAA will be in a better position to score 85% and above”**, he said.

Director Tucker ended by expressing thanks and appreciation to the management of SLCAA for such an opportunity, adding that with this training, his staff now have the required knowledge to effectively prepare for an aviation security audit/inspection, conduct and document an aviation security audit/inspection and understand ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) on aviation security.

SLCAA, IOM LAUNCH COVID-19 ENTRY POINT PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE PROJECT



Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) have yesterday launched the project entitled: “Strengthen Health System Capacity, Preparedness, and Resilience in COVID-19 Points of Entry with Sierra Leone Diaspora.”

The Preparedness and Resilience Project for Points of Entry (PoEs) is funded by the Japanese Government through its Embassy in West Africa.

The project's objective is to strengthen the capacity to prevent, detect, notify and respond to the risk of COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks in selected Point of Entries (PoEs) and surrounding areas.

The Chairman of the project launch, Patrick Jaia Kaikai, who also doubles as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SLCAA, in his remarks, expressed that the project launch was a manifestation of the call from HE President Julius Maada Bio on collaboration.

“Today, we are seeing a real example of collaboration and teamwork between agencies. This is a collaborative effort between the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (the regulator) and the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (the operator),” he said.

In his welcome statement, the General Manager of the Sierra Leone Airports Authority (SLAA), Jack Massaquoi said the project launch was a true meaning of working together to achieve a common objective in the Aviation Industry in Sierra Leone, stating further that the full implementation would open doors for more support from the people of Japan to the people of Sierra Leone.

IOM Project Manager, Kunikazu Akao revealed that since the confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Sierra Leone, IOM has actively supported the Government of Sierra Leone especially COVID-19 prevention at Points of Entry, conducting risk communication and community engagement as well as the provision of personal protective equipment to COVID-19 frontline workers and responders.



“To intensify COVID-19 response at PoEs, IOM in March 2021 started a one-year project with funding from the government of Japan. The project will strengthen capacities for COVID-19 prevention and response at main prioritized PoEs and surrounding health facilities”, he ended.

SLCAA Corporate Planning and Research Officer, Sahr Emmanuel Joseph said that the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGHSP) intended to provide social and economic development at the grass-roots level.

“SLCAA being eligible under the COVID-19 framework (specifically on Primary Health Care Facilities and Medical Equipment) applied for support toward building the capacity of the Airport safety oversight on the Airport Health Infrastructure as was stated in the Airport Council International (ACI) Airport Excellence APEX Safety report 2019”, he noted.



Through the GGHSP grant framework, he said, SLCAA has been awarded grant support from the Japan Embassy for the provision of an Ambulance, a thermo camera, five wheelchairs, handheld thermometers and sets of face masks, hand sanitizers and other protective gears totaling \$53,645.

The Japanese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, HE Tsutomo Himeno, in his statement, said the reason they were keen on supporting the project hinged on the friendship between the people of Japan and the people of Sierra Leone, adding that the project came as a result of HE Julius Maada Bio's visit to Japan two years ago, during which he had meaningful discussions with the Japanese Prime Minister regarding development.

"Although we are far away, we have a very good relationship with the Republic of Sierra Leone, and that good relationship is built upon the bilateral engagement between the two countries".

Dr Amara Jambai, Deputy Minister of Health II also expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to the people of Japan through the Japanese Embassy for this great support to the people of Sierra Leone.

Representing the Hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation, the SLCAA Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio, in his keynote address, officially welcomed HE Tsutomo Himeno to the Freetown International Airport. On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Transport and Aviation, he extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to HE Tsutomo Himeno, the people of Japan for supporting this project and also the IOM team for their continued support to the Aviation Industry in Sierra Leone.

"The signing of these two projects to support growth of the Aviation Industry in Sierra Leone marks a significant milestone in the history of Aviation in Sierra Leone. Given the background of the project, you are intervening to address a peculiar problem that has been associated with the Freetown International Airport for a long and we believe that this intervention will take us to another level," DG Baio said.

He ended by stating that the event marked a greater milestone in the newfound relationship, especially in fostering technical cooperation between the Japanese Embassy and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation.

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SLCAA, MIC SIGN MOU FOR INTEGRATED ICT SYSTEMS



In a bid to digitalized ICT Infrastructure, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) for the implementation of Integrated Information Communication Technology Systems of the Authority. The objective of the MOU is to enable the SLCAA to migrate its key functions from manual paper-based systems to digital.

In his welcome address, the MIC Permanent Secretary, Edward Kwame Yankson, noted that the signing of the MOU was a fulfillment of the Manifesto promises of President Bio in digitalization. This, he added, was also part of the Medium-Term National Development Plan.

"We want to pledge our support to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and promise to always work together to achieve the dreams of His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio," he said.

In his remarks, the Minister of Information and Communication, Hon. Mohamed Swarray, expressed excitement that the two Ministries have decided to work together to enhance and practicalized His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio's vision for digital connectivity in Sierra Leone.

“This is in sync with cluster 3.5 of the National Development Plan which is to improve ICT services and to ensure it is integrated into all development initiatives for growth, innovation, and building a digital economy”, the Minister said.

In his brief statement, the Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon extended thanks to the Ministry of Information and Communication for honouring the request to sign the MOU. **“This is just a manifestation of collaboration among Ministries, which is essential for development.”**

“This MOU when signed and implemented will help the SLCAA in its internal administrative functions and as well as interactions with the travelling public who are the main beneficiary of air transport”, he said.

The Minister ended that one of the reasons for the proposed ICT solution is to implement Information and Communication Technology systems that are technically viable and financially affordable for the migration of key SLCAA functions to digital platforms.

In his statement, the Director General of SLCAA – Moses Tiffa Baio said it has been his desire to see SLCAA transforms and he has been working towards that.

The MOU was signed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Edward Kwame Yankson and the Director General, SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio and witnessed by the Director of Communications Ministry of Information and Communications, Mohamed M.

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SLCAA HOSTS LCAA AND RIA DELEGATION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSION



The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) will provide a five-day (24th – 28th May 2021) Technical Assistance on Aviation Security and Facilitation to the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority and the Roberts International Airport (RIA) respectively. The objective of the mission is to provide technical assistance to the Liberian Civil Aviation Authorities in a bid to enhance their levels of effective implementation in both areas of establishment and implementation of Annex 17 Aviation Security and 9 Facilitation ahead of their planned document-based Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) – Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) in August 2021.

Nuah E. Padmore, Head of the Liberian Delegation, on behalf of the Liberian CAA, thanked the SLCAA for the show of

leadership within the Mano River Union in providing Technical Assistance Mission on Aviation Security and Facilitation.

“Sierra Leone has shown a high spirit of collaboration both within the Banjul Accord Group (BAG) and the Mano River Union (MRU). We hope so much to reciprocate same in future and we will emulate this excellent example,” he ended.

The Director-General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio, on behalf of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone welcomed the delegation and expressed gratitude to Liberia Civil Aviation for choosing the SLCAA to provide Technical Assistance on Aviation Security and Facilitation.

“We are grateful for the fact that you would have chosen another West Africa country to provide you this assistance, but you choose Sierra Leone. This speaks a lot about what we have done and our relationship with our sister countries,” DG Baio said.

DG Baio further re-echoed the spirit of the **“No Country Left Behind”** initiative which ICAO has been supporting both at the regional level and state level to assist States to effectively implement ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies.



INDIAN-SPONSORED SPECIALLY DESIGNED AVIATION E-ITEC COURSES ENDS TODAY



SLCAA Conference Hall, Freetown

With support from the Indian Government through her Resident Mission in Sierra Leone headed by HE Ambassador Rakesh Kumar Arora, staff of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA) and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) Air Wing benefited from three Specialized Aviation Training Courses aimed at providing the required competencies in carrying out their respective duties and responsibilities.

Giving the purpose of the ceremony, Sheku Jabbe, SLCAA International Relations Officer, revealed the Indian High Commission offered scholarship for three areas: Aerodrome and Ground Aids, Aviation Security, and Accident and Incident Investigation, adding that 57

participants from the SLCAA, SLAA and RSLAF Air Wing participated in the three courses, which lasted for three weeks.

Speaking on the importance of the training, one of the participants who attended all three courses, Sahr S. Gando, expressed elation on the The India High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, HE Rakesh Kumar Arora, in his keynote speech, commended the SLCAA Director-General for his interest in the training programme and for enhancing the capacity of his staff to make the Aviation Industry more efficient.

HE Rakesh Kumar Arora maintained that India is committed to being a reliable partner of Sierra Leone in its developmental journey. “The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme is aimed at

sharing India's own development experiences with fellow developing countries based on partnership and cooperation. ITEC offers country-specific and institutional-specific courses which are demand-driven, as was this training programme”.

“As India now has a resident Mission in Freetown, I take this opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to strengthening and expanding our bilateral partnership, including the field of training and skills development,” the High Commissioner stated.

Representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Jonathan Las-Lamin, Deputy Director of the Middle East and Asia Directorate, said that this was among the many supports the Indian Government had given to the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

“The capacity-building assistance the Government of Sierra Leone has received from the Government of India, including the one we are witnessing today, will go a long way to contribute to the Human Capital Development programme in Sierra Leone which is the flagship programme of His Excellency the President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio,” he said.

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, he expressed the deepest sympathy to the many families that have lost their loved ones to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chairman Board of Directors SLCAA, Patrick Jaia Kaikai, maintained that as a Board, they were happy that even at this trial times India stands and supports the **“No Country Left Behind”** initiative by ICAO. He thanked, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the India High Commissioner and called for more support in the future.

In his closing courtesy, the Director-General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio, expressed that within a very short period the India High Commission have been in Sierra Leone, they are making tremendous inroads in terms of support to the Government of Sierra Leone, and in particular, the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority. **“The provision of these training to me is not a surprise, judging by their interventions within this short period”.**



DG Baio re-echoed capacity building as one of the major deficiencies in the CAA. **“The State was audited in 2006 and since then we have been struggling to implement successfully the Corrective Action Plans with ICAO, and one of the issues we always have with ICAO is the capacity of the local staff,”** he added.

He underscored that SLCAA has been very aggressive in terms of addressing the human capacity deficiency which is in direct response to the call of His Excellency the President, Dr. Julius Maada Bio. DG Baio, on behalf of the Management of SLCAA thanked the High Commissioner for this timely intervention and pleaded for more support in other areas.

SLCAA PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LCAA, RIA



The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has concluded a five-day Aviation Security and Facilitation Technical Assistance Mission to the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) and Roberts International Airport (RIA).

Updating the Director-General on the work programme, the SLCAA Director of Aviation Security and Facilitation, Kugbei Tucker, said the Technical Assistance rendered to both the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority and Robert International Airport delegation covers: Technical Guidance Materials, SLCAA Key Performance Indicators, Aviation Security Inspection Checklist, Implementation of Annex 17 and 9 requirements to the Chicago convention and the Roles and Responsibilities of other States Actors in the Security Architecture at the Airports.

“SLCAA has developed Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) on Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) finding and submitted to ICAO of which we are poised for effective implementation within the specified timeframe in readiness for our next USAP in 2022,” Director Tucker stated during the debriefing.



Giving feedback on the mission, Nuah E. Padmore, Head of the Liberian Delegation, expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to the SLCAA for rendering such important assistance in the area of Aviation Security and Facilitation.

He said the aim of their mission was for the SLCAA to assist LCAA in developing its aviation security oversight system by ensuring that Liberia meets the requirements to achieve a higher compliance rating with Annex 17 Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs), during their scheduled document-based Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) – Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) in August 2021.

“After the different presentations by the SLCAA and SLAA, the Mission was able to identify and understand gaps in the implementation of Annex 9 and Annex 17,” Nuah E. Padmore revealed.

He further recommended that the SLCAA Aviation Security (AVSEC) team visit Liberia for a National Leadership discussion to buy the Sierra Leone model of implementation of Annex 17 requirements. Also, for the SLCAA to assist LCAA in the area of Primary and Secondary AVSEC Legislation and review of their AVSEC manuals.

In his statement, the Director-General of SLCAA, Moses Tiffa Baio, revealed that the Hon

Minister of Transport and Aviation would have loved to meet the Liberian delegation but unfortunately, he was out of the country.

“This is a national assignment we are all called to do. We will look at the recommendations you have made. These are not things we are averse to. We will do our bit in engaging higher Authority,” DG Baio assured.

He expressed further that he is happy with the outcome of the Technical Assistance Mission while recalling SLCAA rendered similar assistance on Aviation Security and Facilitation to the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority in December 2020.

“We are pleased to share our experiences with our sister countries within the Mano River Union and hopeful for a positive impact on our collective effort towards enhancing our level of effective implementation of Annex 17 and 9 of the Chicago Convention,” DG Baio said.

DG Baio, on behalf of the Minister of Transport and Aviation, presented gifts to the delegation and assured them of SLCAA's continued support in addressing their deficiencies in Annex 9 and 17.

NAIB CONCLUDES FACT-FINDING MISSION TO SL-AAIIB



The Nigeria Accident Investigation Bureau (NAIB) has concluded a two-day fact-finding mission to the Sierra Leone Aircraft Accident Incident Investigation Bureau (SL-AAIIB).

The objective of the mission was to provide technical support for the setting up of the Sierra Leone Aircraft Accident Incident Investigation Bureau (SL-AAIIB).

Updating SLCAA on the mission, Adeniji Oni Esq, Head of the Nigerian Delegation, expressed thanks for the hospitality received since they arrived in Sierra Leone, noting that the objective of the fact-finding mission has been achieved, judging from the different documentation and information they received from the SL-AAIIB team.

“As a team, we were able to look at the Establishment of SL-AAIIB, Development of Legislation, Regulations, Manuals and Guidance Materials. We also looked at the development of training policies and programmes for investigators (Initial, Simulators and Specialized); and how the SL-AAIIB should prepare for ICAO Audits and the implementation of Corrective Action Plan, following any gap identified,” he said.



In his statement, the SLCAA's Safety Manager/National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator (NMC), Arnold Bangura, revealed that Accident Investigation issues are central to his scope as Safety Manager, hence his participation in the just-concluded exercise. He also expressed that he was grateful for such an opportunity, and promised they would do their best to ensure SL-AAIIB implement the recommendations emanated from the fact-finding mission.

Speaking on behalf of the SLCAA Director-General, the Director of Corporate Services, Alex Pratt, stated that: **“Let me, on behalf of the Director-General, thank you very much for the work done in this brief period. The SLCAA welcomes the recommendations made so far, and promise they would be carefully followed and implemented,”** he said.

Director Pratt assured that the SLCAA will continue to give the necessary support, calling on the NAIB to also keep the SL-AAIIB at heart. **“It is only with these supports the SL-AAIIB would be able to implement all the recommendations emanating from this fact-finding mission”.**

In his closing courtesy, SL-AAIIB Commissioner, Olubunmi Wellington, expressed his profound thanks to HE Dr Julius Maada Bio, for his approval on the setting up of the SL-AAIIB.

Commissioner Wellington further extended gratitude to the Nigeria Delegation for the technical support rendered in the establishment of the SL-AAIIB. **“We promise to make good use of this opportunity and we will call on you at any time to play the Big-Brother-role you have already started”.**

“Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to the SLCAA for their timely intervention in providing resources and facilities for the setting up of SL-AAIIB,” he stated.

He ended by recognizing the many sacrifices made by SLCAA in providing the needed support from its inception to its present stage.



AHEAD OF THE ICAO USOAP AUDIT 2022 SLCAA ORGANIZES INTERNAL MOCK AUDIT

SLCAA Training Hall, Lungi

In preparation for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) scheduled for April 2022, the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority has concluded its second Mock Audit.

The three-day Mock Audit is part of CAA's activities to assess Sierra Leone's safety oversight capabilities in the areas of Legislation, Regulations, Technical Personnel and Training, Technical Guidance Materials (TGMs), among others.

USOAP audits focuses on the State's capability to provide safety oversight by assessing the effective and consistent implementation of Critical Elements (CEs) of a safety oversight system, which enables the State to ensure the implementation of ICAO's safety-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and associated procedures and guidance materials.

During the exercise, various Heads of Departments stressed the significance of the Mock Audit and digressed on the Protocol Questions (PQs) intended to be assessed during the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme in 2022.

Highlighting the Protocol Questions (PQs) that the State will be audited on, the SLCAA's National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator (NMC)/Safety Manager, Arnold Bangura, revealed that ICAO

has reviewed the PQs from 943 to 790, giving a breakdown on all the different audit areas. Presenting the Primary Aviation Legislation and associated Civil Aviation Regulations PQs, Director of Air Transport and Legal Services, Jusu Kallon, maintained that under Legislation, the State would be audited on 23 PQs, which invariably touch on all audit areas. On the self-assessment for Personnel Licensing and Training (PEL), Sheka Magona, PEL Manager, also noted that their area would be audited on 93 PQs, of which 71 PQs applicable to the state.



Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) Officer, Prince Fillie, presenting on behalf of Aerodromes and Ground Aids Division, stated that there are 143 PQs related to the AGA Audit Area; 134 PQs applicable to the state, 32 PQs are satisfactory and 102 PQs are unsatisfactory; whilst Sahr Gando, Air Navigations Services (ANS) Manager presenting on their audit area, stated that their department has a total of 121 applicable PQs that would be audited.

Olubunmi Wellington, Sierra Leone's Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigations (AIG) Commissioner, stated that there are 84 PQs related to the AIG audit area, 12 PQs are satisfactory and 72 PQs is unsatisfactory.

In his statement to staff, the SLCAA Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio, appraised the effort of all those who participated in the successful completion of the exercise, adding that for the State to pass the schedule ICAO USOAP Audit in April 2022, he was counting on the support of all staff. "Our main focus during this mock exercise is to make decisions based on data and not on assumptions. Let us see ourselves as a team, fighting for one objective with more determination so at the end of the day we will achieve our desired goal," DG Baio said.

DG Baio ended by stressing that Sierra Leone is a fertile ground for aviation within the sub-region, noting that staff should grab the opportunity to make Sierra Leone a global aviation hub. "All that was discussed during these three days were said in the spirit of National Development".

At the end of the exercise, the work-plan presented was validated and a road map developed which will guide the SLCAA on its implementation of the Corrective Action Plans (CAP) before the scheduled Audit.

MTA, SLCAA ENGAGE SERVICE PROVIDERS ON BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY



The Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA) in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) has engaged aviation service providers at the Freetown International Airport (FNA) on better service delivery.

In his statement, the Minister of Transport and Aviation, Kabineh Kallon, noted that there have been several complaints against airport workers for harassing passengers at arrival and departure, stating that the Ministry was going to change its monitoring and supervision strategies. He stressed that staff found in such activities would be dismissed and prosecuted in the court of law.

While admonishing them to learn from other airport operators within the sub-region, he explained the consequences of such an act, adding that it would muddle the image of the country and dampen the institution's reputation. "It will be an embarrassment to the airport and the country as a whole to see the photo of any staff making rounds on social media for baggage pilferage," the Minister stated.



act of baggage pilferage. He welcomed the Minister's statement of not only dismissing people but also prosecuting them in the court of law and assured the Minister of their support in tracking down all those that seem to be counterproductive to the development of the airport.

Giving the closing remarks, the SLCAA Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio, expressed profound thanks to the Minister for his presence and level of commitment to the development of the aviation industry in Sierra Leone.

He further re-echoed that the meeting was not summoned for people to defend positions of their organizations but rather to speak on the many complaints that have been coming from the travelling public and find solutions to them.

“Aviation is guided by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). If we adhere to all these regulations, practices, and or guiding principles we will not have been experiencing these problems,” DG Baio said.

DG Baio disclosed they would not only move to the level of enforcement and prosecuting workers found in such an act, but they would also blacklist individuals. **“We do not want to be recycling staff who are not professionals within the industry; we will move beyond those words now,”** he ended.

AIR SENEGAL COMMENCES FLIGHT OPERATIONS TO SIERRA LEONE



Ministry of Transport and Aviation (MTA) on Monday hosted the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee to discuss issues surrounding the passenger experience on arrival at the Freetown International Airport.

The main purpose of the meeting was to review the travel process at the Arrival Hall of the Freetown International Airport (FNA), identify gaps and bring out suggestions to address the gaps highlighted.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Hon. Kabineh Kallon, in his remarks, revealed that government was concerned about the state of affairs on the facilitation process implemented at the Freetown International Airport Lungi, adding that there were few concerns from the travelling public which, he believed, the committee should address.

“Since the reopening of the airport, I am pleased to inform you all that government is satisfied with the collaboration and cooperation between NaCOVERC and the Aviation Industry Stakeholders. The passenger processing on the arrival at FNA has posed very serious challenges for which we consider it as a cause for concern, which has the tendency to mitigate our desire to fly in or out of the country,” the Minister said.

The Hon. Minister ended by calling on the committee to provide solutions to these problems and see how they could make the Air Transport Sector attractive and lively once again.

Giving the overview of the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, the SLCAA Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio noted that the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme was from our national laws, which was also a transposition from Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

“Principally, this talks about the expeditious movement of passengers in and out of the Freetown International Airport. But then, the emergence of COVID-19 has added another burden on the travelling public which is something we are not averse to some of the stringent measures that have been implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. What other airports are trying to do is to make sure that passengers travelling to different destinations do not experience more air travel ordeals,” DG Baio observed.

DG Baio further stated that the Aviation Industry was struggling to get people back to flying and the committee's primary focus should basically look at some of the public health measures implemented at the airport.

“Specifically, we are looking at the arrival process from the moment passengers disembark from the aircraft go through the health protocol, the additional screening is done by SECURIPORT, Immigration, Customs, NaCOVERC and onto the last point in crossing over to Freetown without compromising the health protocols put in place, we need to see how best we can address some of these concerns from the travelling public,” the DG said.

DG Baio reaffirmed that the Civil Aviation Authority was charged with the responsibility of implementing Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). He concluded by admitting the Aviation Industry was glad that the issue of collecting passports from arriving passengers had been rescinded.

On the side of NaCOVERC, Col. Hassan Coomber, Operations Pillar Lead disclosed that they have been doing fine in terms of COVID-19 restrictions even though there is still a need for improvement. **“We have taken off the inter-district restriction, as well as giving access to all passengers travelling through the airport,”** Col. Coomber stated.

Col. Coomber also expressed there had been overcrowding at the airport and this, according to NaCOVERC, is an alarming concern for the transmission of the virus. Based on this worrying development, he added, NaCOVERC had been engaging key stakeholders on the need to have a seamless process at the airport.

Representing the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), the Deputy General Manager, Bobson Kargbo informed the Committee on the introduction of key health measures implemented at the airport to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. the Deputy GM added: **“We have made it mandatory to wear a face mask at the airport. We have also installed handwashing facilities within the airport. We will also be embarking on massive public education to inform the travelling public about the health protocols that have been put in place.”**

On behalf of the Board of Airlines Representative (BAR), Estelle Van Eeckhout from Brussels Airlines confirmed the airport's congestion, adding that: **“For the passenger Health Locator Forms (HLF), some Airlines do give it onboard the aircraft but we have noticed that the information they fill on the HLF is the same with what they filled on the travel portal,”** Estelle said.

The committee resolved that the SECURIPORT data collection system be merged with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation DHIS 2 system, to mitigate the duplication of data collection at the airport.

SLWIA RAISES FOD AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



The Sierra Leone Women in Aviation (SLWIA) in collaboration with Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) and the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA) has engaged other Aviation Stakeholders in raising awareness on Foreign Object Debris (FOD).

Foreign Object Debris (FOD) at airports is any object found in an inappropriate location that, as a result of being in that location, can damage equipment or injure personnel. They include a wide range of materials: loose hardware, pavement fragments, catering supplies, building materials, rocks, sand, pieces of luggage, and even wildlife.

In her statement, the President of SLWIA, Mallay Betty Braima, said their association was established in August 2015 by 14 Female Aviation Professionals spanning various sectors of the aviation industry.

“The objective of our association is to promote the current career growth of our members, create access to other industry professionals, inspire young women to consider aviation as a career path, organise outreach programmes and forums for school pupils, and partner with similar international chapters of women in aviation for program exchanges and career development,” she added.



On behalf of the Board of Directors and Management of SLCAA, he thanked SLWIA for organizing such a landmark event and further call on them to continue in this trajectory.

The General Manager of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority (SLAA), Jack Massaquoi, noted he was elated to witness the campaign on Foreign Object Debris which hinged on promoting safety at the Freetown International Airport (FNA), the only gateway to Sierra Leone by air.

He said the theme for the campaign “Making FNA, FOD Free” sends a loud message not only to stakeholders within the aviation industry, but also the country at large about the effect of Foreign Object Debris.

In her keynote address, the SLCAA Aerodrome and Ground Aids Manager, Ing. Lyat Mason, who doubles as the Vice President of SLWIA, stated that the continuous improvement in global aviation safety is fundamental to ensuring that air transport continues to play a major role in driving sustainable economic and social development around the world.

“To ensure safety Standards are implemented at Aerodromes, ICAO has mandated States to Certify Aerodromes used for International operations. This process ensures the establishment and implementation of an aerodromes Safety Management System,” she said.

Ing. Mason further revealed that the presence of FOD at airport operating areas poses a significant threat to the safety of air travel, as it has the potential to damage aircraft during critical phases of flight, which can lead to catastrophic loss of life and equipment, and at the very least increase maintenance and operating costs.

She ended that FOD Prevention and clearance are the responsibility of all airport users. **“All personnel involved with operations, construction and maintenance at the airside, have equal responsibility to ensure their particular operation does not give rise to FODs”.** She calls on all aviation stakeholders to make the Freetown International Airport FOD free.

SLCAA, ONS & CISU ENGAGES AVIATION SECURITY STAKEHOLDERS ON NCASCP

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA), Office of National Security (ONS), and Central Intelligence Security Unit (CISU) have engaged Aviation Security Stakeholders on the validation of the National Civil Aviation Security Contingency Plan (NCASCP).

In his opening remarks, the ONS Chief of Staff, Dr. Ahmed A. Sannoh, started by recognizing the good work of the SLCAA: “may I recognize the presence of the Director-General of SLCAA for gracing this occasion. His passion for aviation has led to the new face that SLCAA has had in recent time, and if you interact with him you will prove that to be so,” he said.

“We are here today within the context of fighting a global scourge, that is terrorism. Terrorism is a global existential threat and therefore any country that is worth its salt should do everything it should to make sure that it has adopted the requisite strategies, provisions, legislations, and regulations to be able to deter the threat that may be posed by terrorism,” Dr. Sannoh maintained.

He ended that aviation security stakeholders should work hard to externalize this reality as they are meeting to validate such an important document that will complement the efforts towards fighting terrorism.

The SLCAA Director-General, Moses Tiffa Baio, in his short statement expressed profound thanks and appreciation to all in attendance for their participation. “As Aviation Security Stakeholders, we are here to review and validate the State National Policy document on Aviation Security, which the technical team has been doing behind the scene. A lot of consultations have been done, and we are still following the same process as we have been doing with other stakeholders,” DG Baio said.

DG Baio believed that the document that will be produced will be able to meet the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and that of our national requirements. He calls on all stakeholders present to participate fully and wished a fruitful deliberation and positive outcome.

Presenting the National Civil Aviation Security Contingency Plan (NCASCP), the SLCAA Director of Aviation Security and Facilitation, Kugbei Tucker, revealed that in both the 2013 and 2019 ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme Continuous Monitory Approach (USAP-CMA), the State had findings on this area.

“Since the event of 9/11, the world has witnessed a dramatic shift in Aviation Security, from small border control unit with limited systems and procedures to a comprehensive approach directed towards safety and security of passengers, aircraft, terminal buildings, and other facilities at major international airports,” Director Tucker underscored.

Director Tucker further added that as a logical step forward in addressing the huge challenges associated with: unlawful seizure of aircraft, terrorist attacks, sabotage, hostage-taking, and its attendant problems, the SLCAA has developed a draft Contingency Plan that can be used to respond to these incidents.

He concluded that ICAO recommends each contracting State to ensure that contingency plans are developed and resources made available to safeguard civil aviation against acts of unlawful inference and that the contingency plans shall be tested regularly.



Appreciation

We write to express our gratitude to our partners for their continued support over the years and look forward to a continued healthy business relationship with you.

