

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE 2ND AERODROME EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Chairman of the National Civil Aviation Committee

Hon. Ministers

Dignitaries present

Airline representatives

And stakeholders

Let me first thank the participants who have been part of the second Aerodrome Emergency exercise carried out here at the Kigali International Airport.

The exercise was professionally started and ended with team members urgently responding to the emergency.

It was conducted in a coordinated way and information fluently exchanged to ensure that action is executed with efficiency and effectiveness mindful of the lives of people at stake during a crisis.

This is a priceless endeavor that you have shown in ensuring that lives are saved, property as well as the major investments that the Government of Rwanda has dedicated to developing airports, RwandAir, the national carrier as well as private investments and activities.

The Aerodrome Emergency Exercise is mandatory as required by both Rwandan regulations and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) and is supposed to be conducted every after two years.

And this shows that you have an extensive emergency plan in place which includes all stakeholders clearly mentioning their roles in case a crisis occurs.

Every role player showed preparedness to respond swiftly and efficiently with the understanding to command, communicate and coordinate amongst team players and you were able to emerge from the disaster as quickly as possible meaning that in a real scenario, people's lives would reliably depend on you for saving and the country at large.

It is unfortunate that we may not be able to reverse a crisis but you have demonstrated that the ability to prevent the escalation by decisively responding to prevent the occurrence from consuming more lives, property and extensively hindering operations at the airport.

So, I thank you for the endeavor you have shown today. It is a positive step in inculcating confidence in the public that in the mist of the unexpected, you are ready to take control back and manage the situation.

I would like to thank his Excellency for the visionary leadership that has continued to impact all sectors of the economy through peace and stability which has enabled us to have a vibrant aviation sector over the years that has transformed into an indispensable pillar for growth to our economy.

And now, with continued economic growth, beside the security and safety controls, we are making sure that we are ready in the face of a crisis to execute smartly with precision, calm the situation, save lives and return to normal operations.

Allow me to again thank the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority board members, management, staff and stakeholders that in their daily operations have led to a prosperous aviation sector.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

