

**MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND
TRANSPORT, HON. PROF. M. J. MWANDOSYA (MP), ON THE
OCCASION OF MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY
ON 7TH DECEMBER 2002**

The Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania join the Tanzanian aviation community and the global aviation fraternity in celebrating the 58th birthday of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the signing of the Convention of International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention). During its existence, ICAO has achieved a lot in spearheading the development of the industry making civil aviation still the safest mode of mass transportation today. Since its inception, ICAO has seen to it that industry developments have been orderly coordinated, thus ensuring, as much as possible, that interests of all its 188 contracting States are safeguarded.

This year's celebrations are very special. They coincide with the start of the commemoration of the centenary of civil aviation. The Wright Brothers (Wilbur and Orville), flew the first ever heavier than air aircraft on 17th December 1903 at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina, United States of America. Under the full control of Orville, the flight remained airborne for approximately thirty seconds and travelled a distance of a hundred and twenty feet (120). This flight marked the beginning of civil aviation. The aviation industry has grown tremendously during these hundred years to the

extent of enabling man to set foot on the moon and to establish space laboratories.

This year's commemoration pays tribute to the landmark flight of the Wright Brothers with the theme "**A Hundred Years of Powered, Sustainable and controlled Flight**". It is therefore befitting for us to reflect not only on the achievements, which have been made but also more on the challenges the industry is facing today, both domestically and globally as it prepares to enter its second centenary.

One of the biggest challenges facing the industry is the threat of terrorism and other acts of unlawful interference. We all remember the havoc, which was created by the tragic events of the September 11, 2001, in New York and Washington when for the first time, civilian aircraft was used as weapons of mass destruction. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania salutes ICAO and the international aviation community in promptly and effectively coming together to ensure that public confidence in flying is restored. Tanzania has ratified all the relevant ICAO protocols and conventions with regard to aviation security, including the Protocol for Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, and the Montreal Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, which were ratified by Parliament this year. Tanzania supports ICAO's proposal to establish an international facility on Aviation War Risk Insurance. The Government is currently studying the proposal with a view of acceding to it. This facility will benefit airlines and other aviation service providers when it comes into force, most probably next year.

As a consequence of the September 11, 2001 and most recently the Mombasa tragic event following the suicide bombing of Paradise Hotel and the attempt to shoot down an Israel passenger aircraft on 28th November, 2002, Tanzania has tightened security at its international airports of Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar and several major domestic airports such as Mtwara, Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma. Through the Safe Skies for Africa Initiative, the USA Government has assisted us in this endeavour. In order to ensure training of all personnel in aviation security is given the priority it deserves, starting this year, an Aviation Security Fund has been established using a portion of the passenger fees. Tanzania Airports Authority, contributes to the Fund. Arrangements are underway to ensure that other airport operators such as KADCO and others contribute as well.

Safety, however, continues and will continue to be a major challenge facing the industry. All ICAO Contracting States, including Tanzania have a responsibility of ensuring that the operations of the industry are safe. ICAO is now performing mandatory audits of States' capability in overseeing safety through the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme. Tanzania continues to implement the recommendations of the year 2000 Audit and already substantial progress has been made. The principal legislation, the Civil Aviation Act of 1977 has been amended in order to consolidate all the changes which have resulted from the establishment of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority under the Executive Agencies Act of 1997. The amendment of the Tanzania Air Navigation Regulations is in the final approval process. These are expected to be out before February next year.

Aviation safety is also about ensuring that the national airspace is adequately covered with communication, navigation and surveillance systems and facilities for safe, orderly and expeditious air traffic movements. The installation of the primary and secondary surveillance radars and replacement of navigation aids such as VOR/DME and ILS at Dar es Salaam Airport will provide essential solution in the medium term.

Tanzania recognizes the importance of regional approach to safety oversight. Such an approach aims at pooling the scarce technical resources and exploring economies of scale in satellite systems, which form part of the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). Tanzania is therefore actively participating in the East Africa Community Safety Project and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Upper Airspace Control Centre Study. The strategic geographical position of Tanzania makes it a natural linkage between the two regions. It is important that we take advantage of this natural endowment.

Tanzania, as the rest of the world, faces the challenge of liberalization of the aviation industry. The 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision (YD), seeks to open up intra-Africa market access. The adoption of joint COMESA/EAC/SADC Competition rules will facilitate implementation of YD. Tanzania's pace in the liberalization will gain speed after successful completion of the privatisation of the national carrier, Air Tanzania, on 2 December 2002. South African Airways has acquired a 49% stake in Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) thus heralding a new era in the aviation industry in Tanzania. The expectation of the Government and that of every Tanzanian is to see the new airline take off smoothly. We expect that the competition, which will

arise from the establishment of the new airline, will be healthy to the industry and will be to the benefit of the air traveller.

As we celebrate this year's International Civil Aviation Day and reflect on the last hundred years of civil aviation, we still search for a better and more equitable formula of engaging in international air transportation. Tanzania expects to participate in the forthcoming 5th Worldwide Air Transport Conference, which will be held in March 2003 in Montreal. This global meeting will consider regulatory issues such as market access and substantial ownership and control. The coming century is likely to see more flexible arrangements in aviation business and the adoption of more multilateral agreements. Bilateral arrangements, have characterized relations between states over the last 50 years.

As we commence celebrations to mark a hundred years of civil aviation, I would like to congratulate the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) for coming up with the idea of a Civil Aviation Week commencing this year. As a public institution, TCAA has an obligation to educate the public on the aviation industry. I applaud TCAA for reaching out to school children from upcountry and enabling them to experience the first flight of their lives, albeit for a few minutes. I am sure the experience will remain with these children for the rest of their lives.

The Government of Tanzania is committed to continue creating conducive environment for potential investments in air transport sub sector. The establishment of Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority as a semi autonomous government agency and a regulator is an indication of the Government's

commitment to ensure independence and transparency in the regulation of this important industry, an industry that plays a catalytic role in the development of the economy.

We have come a long way from Kitty Hawk. I look forward to a vibrant and fast growing aviation industry in Tanzania. I wish you an enjoyable International Civil Aviation day as we celebrate Hundred Years of Powered, Sustainable and Controlled Flight.

I wish you all a very Happy Eid El Fitr