

- ***All drones must be registered, says KCAA***

Kisumu, 4th February, 2022...It is illegal to operate a drone in the country that is not registered. Speaking today in a media breakfast held in Kisumu, Capt. Gilbert Kibe, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) Director General said that the Authority had developed drones operations regulations that are aimed at making operations viable and orderly.

"KCAA has completed the development of regulations and charges to support the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) popularly known as drones, said the Director General adding that "drones are increasingly becoming part of business in provision of services including health care emergency services, filming industry, sports and news gathering."

While commenting on preparation to handle the envisaged increase in aviation activities during the forthcoming Africities event in May this year, Capt Kibe said that KCAA was ready to ensure that these flights are navigated seamless in and out of Kisumu and the country. "We expect many visitors, including VIPs that will fly to Kisumu to grace this event, and KCAA is ready for the task of navigating the increased volume of flights.

While commenting the County Government of Kisumu for moving dumpsites from the flight path, the DG said that bird strikes were still being reported. "Available data show that there are 3 – 6 bird strikes per month in Kisumu, which is the third highest number after JKIA (22) and Wajir (12)." He added that Airport Multi Agency Team comprising KCAA, KAA and KWS has undertaken significant steps to mitigate birds and other wildlife menace at the airport.

Capt. Kibe attributed the birds' menace to the dumpsites along the flight path. "The inert matter at Kachok dumpsite was transferred to Kajulu area outside the city to fill manmade quarries." However, he said, active matter continues to be dumped at Kachok, in what the county government says is a holding point awaiting transfer to an upcoming dumpsite being constructed at Kasese in Muhoroni, 50 Km away from the city. Thus, Kachok dumpsite still attracts significant number of birds within the city.

There are three fisheries located around the airport; in Obunga, Kisian and dunga beach areas. These fisheries attract birds of various types and mostly the blue kite family. The airport management raised the concerns with County government of Kisumu and KWS and action is expected to be taken to mitigate this concern.

During the meeting, KCAA informed the media that Kenya was highly ranked globally as far as aviation safety is concerned. Through a mandatory audit by ICAO that assesses a State's implementation of the ICAO Standards And Recommended Practices (SARPs), Kenya's current score is **75.41%** against a global average of **65.3%** and Regional average of **51.1%**. Further, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA), which is mandatory assessment by the FAA on a States Safety Oversight system before allowing direct flights to the United States of America has seen Kenya rated as Category 1, which is the highest rating. Because of that rating, Kenya is now able to have direct flights to US.

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Note to Editor:

Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) is the regulatory authority established by the Civil Aviation Act, 2013 as amended in 2016 with the primary functions of regulation and oversight of aviation safety & security; economic regulation of air services and development of Civil Aviation; provision of air navigation services, and training of Aviation personnel. KCAA undertakes these functions guided by the provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), the Kenya Civil Aviation Act, 2013 and the civil aviation regulations.

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