



# THE TAKEOFF

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE  
KENYA ASSOCIATION OF AIR OPERATORS

ISSUE  
NO.3

## Inside the Issue

### Developments in the aviation industry

Highlighting new  
developments in  
the industry.

### Stakeholder Engagements

Spotlight on all our  
activities.

### What's Hot!

Member milestones,  
welcoming new  
members, and more  
exciting news!

*Dear Members,*

As we approach the year's end, I would like to convey my appreciation for your continued support to our association.

In recent months, we have achieved remarkable progress, including the successful promulgation of our company's constitution (MEMARTS), enhanced stakeholder engagement with the government and relevant agencies, among others.

Our active participation and promotion of aviation-related events have bolstered our presence in the aviation community.

Collaborating with the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) has not only strengthened our ties with the broader African aviation landscape, but also underscored our commitment to fostering sustainable development of air transport within Kenya and across the continent.

Looking forward, the newly developed KAAO 24/25 strategic plan will serve as our roadmap, helping us achieve our objectives and positively impact the aviation sector.

We remain committed to being an authoritative unified voice of advocacy for the Kenyan aviation industry. Let us continue to champion excellence, integrity, and accountable leadership, embodying the values that define us.

I look forward to the exciting opportunities that await us in the coming year.

*From the  
C.E.O.*



*Liz Aluvanze*

## Decarbonizing Aviation



In an era where environmental consciousness is at the forefront of global discussions, the aviation industry is taking giant strides towards a more sustainable future. Recognizing its ecological footprint, aviation stakeholders have embarked on a journey to reduce emissions and innovate for a greener tomorrow.

One of the most promising avenues for sustainable aviation is the development and adoption of green technology. Aircraft manufacturers are designing next-generation planes that are lighter, more fuel-efficient, and boast improved aerodynamics. Airlines are also focusing on improving operational efficiency through optimizing flight routes, managing weight and balance, and minimizing ground time to lessen fuel consumption and emissions.

Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) are another crucial component of this green revolution. Made from renewable sources, SAFs are helping airlines reduce their carbon emissions without compromising performance. They can also be used in existing aircraft engines with minimal modification as evidenced by the inaugural KQ sustainable flight to Amsterdam piloted on 25th May, 2023.

In a move towards a greener tomorrow, Kenya has held SAF & CORSIA workshops, emphasizing the importance of implementing various technical, operational, regulatory and market-based mitigation measures to address climate change in the air transport sector. Additionally, Kenya hosted the Africa Climate Summit in September - dedicated to climate action and driving green growth across Africa. Affirming its commitment, the Kenyan government has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, aligning with ICAO's long-term aspirational global goal.

Sustainability in aviation is not just a buzzword; it's a tangible reality that promises a more eco-friendly and responsible route to climate-neutral aviation.

## Stakeholder Engagements

### 11th July: KAAO CEO Visits Zipline Kenya

Our CEO during a visit to Zipline Kenya, a BVLOS drone company that facilitates the delivery of medical supplies in hard-to-reach areas, and a member of the association.



### 9th August: 2nd Aviation Thought Leaders Forum

The Association took part in this high-level forum hosted by KCAA, which aimed to enhance industry participation, inform on the status of implementation of recommendations given during the inaugural Thought Leaders meeting, and review the progress of the aviation industry.



### 21st-25th August: AFI Aviation Week

KAAO actively participated in the AFI Week that saw aviation stakeholders and delegates from Africa and the Indian Ocean region convene in Nairobi. This event served as a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering strategic discussions, with the goal of advancing aviation safety, security and sustainability in the region.





**29th August: Industry Affairs**

We took part in the quarterly tripartite meeting between KAAO, KCAA and KAA that serves as a platform to discuss and address critical issues and challenges affecting the industry. The meeting seeks to foster collaboration and drive positive change in Kenya’s aviation landscape.

**30th Aug-1st Sept: 8th Kenya Aviation Safety Campaign**

The Association was represented in this safety campaign sponsored by air operators in partnership with WFP. The workshop aimed at addressing key safety topics such as:

- Disaster and emergency preparedness.
- Sustainable Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and waste management.
- Maintenance best practices.



**5th Sept: 2nd Board Strategic Plan Retreat**

The Board of Directors held comprehensive deliberations on the restructuring of the association to meet members’ needs. The strategic plan retreat served as an opportunity to explore avenues for increased advocacy efforts, operational efficiency, growth, and increased brand visibility.



### 11th-12th Sept: 2nd workshop on development and deployment of SAF in Kenya.

KAAO participated in this workshop that aimed at putting forward strategies to accelerate the adoption of sustainable aviation fuels. This comes as an initiative to reduce the carbon footprint in the aviation industry.

### 13th-14th Sept: Workshop on SAF Technology including PtL, Policy, Certification and Finance for the Aviation Sector in Kenya

The Association took part in this training program with the objective of highlighting tools for decarbonizing aviation. The workshop focused on various aspects, including alternative aviation fuels, feedstock production and sustainability, certification, and regulatory concerns.



### 23rd Sept: 9th Girls In Aviation Day

KAAO sponsored the Girls In Aviation Day, which was hosted by Women In Aviation, Kenya Chapter (WAI-KE). It was a collaborative effort by WAI members and industry sponsors aimed at providing mentorship and imparting valuable insights on aviation careers to inspire the next generation of young aviators.

**10th-12th Oct: CORSIA, SAF & CORSIA  
Eligible Fuels for Kenyan Stakeholders**

The Association attended this seminar that focused on delivering an overview of CORSIA, monitoring, reporting and verification(MRV) processes, as well as offsetting requirements. The session also delved into implementation of CORSIA eligible fuels and relevant ICAO documentation.



**19th Oct: HFw Aviation Seminar**

HFw and Gallagher, in partnership with KAAO, held a workshop titled “Managing Serious Aircraft Incidents.” The seminar offered insights into serious incidents occurrences, roles of key players in the event of an accident, strategies for managing legal liability exposure, handling of media, and aviation insurance policies coverage.

**25th Oct: Breakfast Roundtable Meeting  
with PS State Department for Transport**

The Board hosted the PS Transport Mohamed Daghar for a breakfast meeting, where they presented a matrix of key issues affecting the industry including:

- Representation in industry decision and policy-making bodies.
- Infrastructure maintenance, and upgrades of key airports.





**26th Oct: Extra Ordinary General Meeting**

KAAO members participated in the EGM whose objective was amendment of MEMARTS to comply with the Companies Act 2015, expand the Association’s membership to accommodate various categories of operators and membership of the Board.

**1st Nov: AFRAA Sky Connect Dialogue**

Our CEO took part in the AFRAA leadership dialogues where she shared insights on industry capacity and growth, cooperation among stakeholders, the AFRAA-KAAO partnership, and recommendations to shape the African Aviation.



**9th Nov: Meeting with CS TOURISM**

The Board held a meeting with Cabinet Secretary- Tourism, Dr. Alfred Mutua, where they presented a matrix of high impact industry issues such as :

- Development of aviation infrastructure;
- Non-standardized, high fees levied by County Governments;
- E-Citizen payment platform;
- SAATM/Open Skies policy.



**19th-21st Nov: AFRAA Annual General Assembly**

As a member of AFRAA, KAAO actively participated in AFRAA’s AGA where our CEO contributed as a panellist addressing the theme of ‘ Diversity, equity and inclusivity to shape the future aviation workforce in Africa. Among those present were KAAO board members led by the chairman Mbuivi Ngunze, Allan Kilavuka, Jimmy Kibati and Mr. Alex Avedi.



**23rd Nov: Women in Aviation seminar**

The Association took part in the Women in Aviation seminar designed to facilitate networking and knowledge-sharing among accomplished women in the aviation industry.

**28th Nov: Industry Affairs Meeting**

KAAO hosted the 4th Industry Affairs meeting of the year between KAAO, KCAA and KAA. These quarterly meetings serve as a platform to discuss infrastructure advancements and industry related concerns, with a shared objective of promoting the sustainable growth of the air transport sector.



## KAAO Achievements



**1**

Promoted stakeholder engagement by conducting meetings with the PS, Ministry of Transport and the CS, Ministry of Tourism.

**2**

Advocated for the review on fees charged for the verification for recommendation letter of duty exemption for aircraft spare parts to a flat fee of Kshs. 7,000.

**3**

Developed the KAAO 2024/2025 Strategic Plan.

**4**

Amended KAAO MEMARTS to comply with Companies Act 2015.

**5**

Participation of KAAO CEO in AFRAA's leadership dialogues and AGA as a panelist.

**6**

Hosted an aviation seminar in collaboration with HFW & Gallagher.

**7**

Revamped KAAO's communication channels.

## Our **Success Stories**

### **RICHARD KUBO MBS & RAPHAEL WAMWATI - TWINSTAR AVIATION**

The President, H.E. William Ruto, conferred upon Richard Kubo with Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS) and Raphael Wamwati received Head of State's Commendation (Military Division) for working with the Ethiopian Military to deliver humanitarian relief in Tigray region during the civil war in 2022/2023.



### **UNA GERTRUDE - AIRKENYA EXPRESS**

Nominated to Soleil Solution Africa's Committee to safeguard impartiality for CORSIA verification.  
Also, nominated to the AFCAC team on acceleration of development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) in Africa.



### **GAD KAMAU - Z. BOSKOVIC AIR CHARTERS**

Nominated to the Aeronautical Search & Rescue Committee, Wilson Airport.



### **MERCY MAKAU - RAAK**

Inducted into the Women in Emerging Aviation Technologies Hall of Fame. This is an award that celebrates innovators, mentors and leaders who actively shape the future of the UAS/AAM industry.



### **NILESH SOMAIA - ALS LIMITED**

Nominated to AFCAC team on acceleration of development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) in Africa.



## Our Members Milestones



### **KQ wins an award for Best Innovation Category & Most Impactful Breakthrough**

KQ received an award in Best Innovation Category and Most Impactful Breakthrough for their achievement as the FIRST African Airline to use SAF on a long haul flight during the 2023 Sustainable Flight Challenge.

### **Z. Boskovic received ISSA Certification**

Z Boskovic Air Charters and industry partners celebrated their achievement of the prestigious ISSA certification.

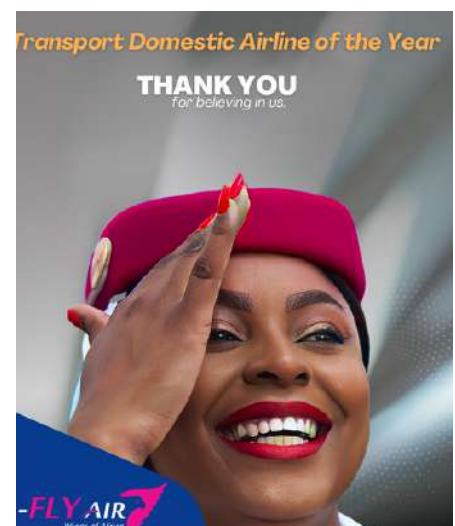


### **Airkenya wins an award as Kenya's Leading Domestic Safari Carrier**

Airkenya was declared the winner of Kenya's Leading Domestic Safari Carrier award during the World Travel Awards 2023 held in Dubai.

### **I-Fly receives an award for Premier Domestic Airline**

I-Fly Air won award as premier domestic airline during the Africa Mashariki Transport Awards held in Kenya.



## Welcoming **New Members**

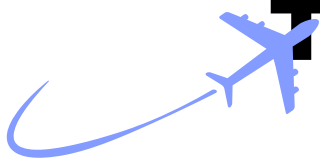


## Aviation **Events**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **13th February 2024**  
Industry Affairs
- **26th February 2024**  
HELI-Expo 2024
- **12th-14th March 2024**  
ICAO Innovation fair 'Digital Aviation:  
The future is now.'
- **24th April 2024**  
East African Clean Expo & Summit 2024
- **7th-9th May 2024**  
36th IATA ground handling conference
- **21st-23rd May 2024**  
African Aviation Summit



# THE TAKEOFF

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE  
KENYA ASSOCIATION OF AIR OPERATORS

You can now reach us with  
your questions, comments  
and enquiries **online**



@kenyaoperators



@kaaoKenya



@kenyaairoperators



Kenya Association of Air Operators



admin@kaao.co.ke



+254-20-600-1165



www.kaao.co.ke