



# THE TAKEOFF

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE  
KENYA ASSOCIATION OF AIR OPERATORS

ISSUE  
NO.2

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Highlighting our  
Advocacy  
achievements

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### **What's Hot!**

Member  
achievements,  
welcoming new  
members and more  
exciting news!

*Dear Members,*

I am delighted to report that the association has made great strides in our advocacy efforts, and our main goal is to continue improving the operating environment for our members and the broader air transport industry.

Over the past months, we have achieved several important milestones; successful inclusion of our proposals on tax reduction contained in the Finance Act FY 23/24, signing of an MoU with AFRAA to provide mutual support towards the sustainable development of the airline industry in Kenya and Africa at large, onboarding new members, increased stakeholder engagement with Government and relevant agencies amongst others.

We remain committed to our core values of Safety & Security, Collaboration, and Service Excellence.

Looking forward, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and the positive impact we can collectively create.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with you all.

## *From the C.E.O.*



Liz Aluvanze

# No More Taxes!



We are proud to announce that our proposals on exemption of taxes on the importation of aircraft and aircraft spare parts were incorporated into the Finance Act 2023 after a vigorous campaign!

Out of our seven (7) proposals made to the National Treasury and the East African Community (EAC) Assembly, we were successful in having six (6) gazetted as follows:

1. VAT exemption on Aircraft, Aircraft Parts and Aircraft Spare Parts;
2. VAT exemption on Flight Simulators;
3. Exemption from IDF on Aircraft, Aircraft Parts and Aircraft Spare Parts;
4. Exemption from RDL on Aircraft, Aircraft Parts and Aircraft Spare Parts;
5. Exemption from RDL, IDF on Engines;
6. Removal of the stay of application of the Common External Tariff that imposes import duty on light aircraft and helicopters (<2,000Kgs).

We understand that our proposal on VAT on domestic fuel faced two challenges; first the two levels of VAT applicable in the market bringing complexity, and second, the high safety risk on adulteration of JetA1 and AVGAS. We will continue to engage the relevant agencies on this in the future.

Overall, this is a significant milestone for the air transport industry that will stimulate growth, attract investment, and position Kenya as a competitive hub.



## We Hit the Ground Running!

### 31st Jan: Inaugural Aviation Thought Leaders Forum

The Association took part in the forum hosted by KCAA, which aimed at looking into enhancing industry participation in the rule making process, red-tapism in KCAA processes and KCAA Automation.



### 31st Jan-3rd Feb: KENYA-UK Act CORSIA training

The Association participated in the CORSIA training program which covered various topics such as regulatory aspects, carbon offsetting, credits and emissions monitoring and reporting.



### 6th Feb: Low cost housing project in Kibera Soweto East Zone 'B'

We presented the industry's position on the housing project in Kibera to the Permanent Secretary Housing & Urban Development, due to concerns of the potential safety hazard it poses, based on its proximity to Wilson Airport. The Association gave recommendations on measures that could be put in place to minimize these risks and called for a policy to be put in place.



### **6th- 9th Feb: Demonstration by Cirrus Aircraft team**

The Association hosted the Cirrus team, which prides itself as being the world's largest small airplane manufacturer, to showcase their SR22 and Vision Jet aircraft models. This was followed by a cocktail hosted by Cirrus which was an opportunity to engage with members of KAAO, other aviation professionals and operators.



### **16th Feb: Bowmans Seminar**

Bowmans, one of the largest corporate law practitioners in Kenya, in collaboration with KAAO, held a workshop titled 'Seeing Around the Corner', which focused on addressing key legal issues affecting the aviation industry such as:

- Environmental, social, and governance Investing (ESG)
- Tax
- Data protection
- Restructuring.



### **20th Feb: Industry Affairs**

We hosted and chaired 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 find solutions for the sustainable growth of the aviation industry.







**23rd Feb: KAAO EC Strategic Plan Retreat**

The Executive Committee held its strategic planning retreat to facilitate thoughtful and comprehensive deliberations on the restructuring of the association to meet members needs. It served as an opportunity to explore avenues for increased advocacy efforts, improvement, growth and increased brand visibility.

**2nd March: Breakfast Roundtable meeting with CS, PS Ministry of Roads & Transport**

The Executive Committee hosted the CS Ministry of Roads & Transport for a breakfast meeting, where they presented a matrix on key issues affecting the industry such as:

- Industry representation in policy formulation.
- Involvement of the association in discussions on draft aviation policy.
- Development and maintenance of aviation infrastructure around the country.



**EMBRACING EQUITY**

AWICA'S 4TH ANNIVERSARY AND PROGRAM RELAUNCH

**SPEAKER  
LIZ ALUVALE**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
KAAO

10TH MARCH  
3.00 PM



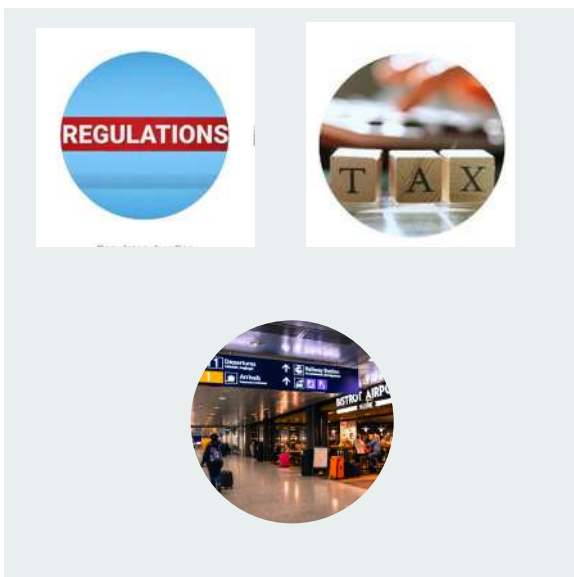
**10th March: 4th Association of Women in Civil Aviation Anniversary**

The Association was represented in the AWICA anniversary, which aimed at celebrating the promotion of gender diversity as well as the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in the aviation industry.

**16th March: KAAO MoU with AFRAA**

We took a momentous step towards strengthening our advocacy efforts by signing an MoU with AFRAA which will see us working collaboratively in the following key areas:

- Joint advocacy efforts on challenges faced by the airline industry.
- Data and intelligence sharing.
- Subsidized training courses through AFRAA's ATO partnership framework.
- Implementation of African Air Transport Sustainability Steering Committee (AATSSC) roadmap.



**24th March: Presentation to President's Economic Council on high impact issues on air transport**

The Association met with the President's Economic Council, to advocate for its members, on issues affecting the aviation industry. The aim was to highlight the industry's key concerns and recommendations i.e. current tax regime on importation of aircraft and aircraft spare parts, ease of doing business and how to make Kenya an air transport hub amidst fierce regional competition.

**27th-29th April: KEPSA Senate Roundtable**

The CEO in her capacity as Vice Chairlady of the KEPSA Transport Sector Board, attended the Senate Roundtable which established a collaborative partnership between KEPSA Sector Leaders and the Senate Liaison Committee, that will see them working together to improve Kenya's business environment.





## 7th-9th May: AFRAA 11th Aviation Stakeholders Convention - Addis Ababa

As part of our collaboration with AFRAA, we attended their convention whose theme was 'Changing the African Aviation Narrative' whose main objective was to redefine the prevailing nature of Africa's air transport industry, emphasizing key aspects such as interconnectivity, affordability, profitability, efficiency, digitalization and sustainability.



## 15th-17th May: KCARs Review & Development

Members participated in the review and development of Kenya Civil Aviation Regulations (KCARs). This exercise, the first in its kind, entailed industry and regulator collaboration, as part of KCAA's changes in the rule making process aimed at creating a regulatory framework that is progressive, responsive and supportive of the dynamic aviation environment in Kenya.



## 22nd May: Industry Affairs Meeting

The Association participated in the 2nd Industry Affairs meeting of the year between KAAO, KCAA and KAA (host). These quarterly meetings bring together the managerial staff of KCAA, KAA and operators where policies, infrastructural developments and matters affecting the industry are deliberated upon with a common goal aimed at the growth, development and sustainability of the air transport industry.





# KAAO Achievements



ONE

Successful inclusion of KAAO proposals on tax reduction for the aviation industry in the Finance Bill for the FY 23/24.

TWO

MoU between KAAO AFRAA.

THREE

Appointment of KAAO CEO to the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority Board of Directors.

FOUR

Advocated for the review of the rule making process to include industry participation from drafting phase.

FIVE

Advocated for the re-design of the Kibera Soweto East Low Cost Housing project to ensure compliance with maximum allowable height.

SIX

Development and implementation of KAAO Strategic Plan.

## Celebrating **member milestones.**



### **SKYWARD EXPRESS FLEET EXPANSION**

Skyward Express introduced a Fokker 100 aircraft into their fleet, marking a significant expansion for the airline.

### **ASTRAL WINS AFRICA ALL CARGO CARRIER AWARD 2023**

Astral was declared winner of the Africa All Cargo Carrier award 2023, Highly Acclaimed-Air Cargo Brand of the Year in Africa, during the Air Cargo Africa event held in Johannesburg.



### **KQ RECEIVES CEIV PHARMA CERTIFICATION**

Kenya Airways was awarded the Center of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Pharma certification by IATA for their KQ Pharma facility.

### **Z BOSKOVIC WELCOMED BACK THEIR REFURBRISHED AIRCRAFT KOZI**

Z Boskovic Air Charters and industry partners welcomed back their aircraft Kozi after undergoing refurbishment in South Africa



### **AEROCLUB OF EAST AFRICA AIR SAFETY SERIES**

Aeroclub has taken proactive steps towards promoting air safety in General Aviation by launching an Air Safety Series, which focuses on reviewing recent accidents and incidents and sharing pilot stories.



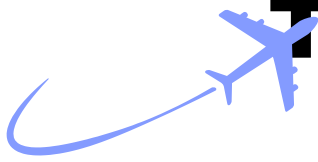
## Welcoming **new members.**



## Upcoming **Events**

- 10th-12th July 2023| KICC, Nairobi | 14th Africa Union High-Level Private Sector Forum
- 14th July 2023| Nairobi | Africa eDigital Connect Summit
- 17th July 2023| Nairobi | Industry Affairs Meeting
- 21st-25th August 2023| Nairobi | 8th AFI Aviation Week
- 4th-6th September 2023| Nairobi | Africa Climate Action Summit
- 13th-14th September 2023| Abuja, Nigeria | Aviation Africa Summit & Exhibition
- September 2023| Aeroclub, Nairobi | Air Safety Series
- 10th-12th October 2023| Nairobi| ICAO/EASA Forum on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations for Global Aviation Safety





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



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