

A WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE HOST, **CAPT. MRS. CHINYERE KALU MFR**,  
RECTOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF AVIATION TECHNOLOGY (NCAT)  
ZARIA. ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN AVIATION TRAINING ORGANIZATION  
(AATO) CONSTITUTIVE ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2013 AT THE NICON LUXURY  
HOTEL, ABUJA – NIGERIA

- ❖ The Deputy Senate President of Nigeria, Senator Ike Ekweremadu
- ❖ Distinguished Senators and Honourable Members here present
- ❖ The Honourable Minister of Aviation Nigeria, Princess Stella Adaeze Oduah OON
- ❖ ICAO Africa Regional Directors
- ❖ The Chairperson of Aviation Training Organization (AATO) Interim Council
- ❖ Delegates of the AATO Assembly
- ❖ Distinguished members of the Aviation Family
- ❖ Gentlemen of the media
- ❖ Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

I most humbly welcome you all to this epochal event that provides a forum for all Aviation training institutions around the African continent to deliberate on issues of common goal. AATO is indeed an idea whose time has come given the plethora of urgent capacity needs in our fast growing Aviation Industry. It goes without gainsaying that state leaderships depends largely on us for an effective implementation of Aviation and allied policies.

The best of policies without adequate skilled manpower implementers would remain a mirage. Therefore, our Aviation training centres across the continent are the engine room and nerve centres for the realization and actualization of our lofty goals for the Industry.

I am particularly excited at the huge potentials and benefits devisable from this body. Delegates across the continent of Africa are here present to harness their different experiences, knowledge and challenges for the benefit of all.

I therefore implore us all to inspire one another with our lofty ideas and contributions. No doubt, our unreserved contributions would greatly enrich the capability and capacities of our training institutions. We must encourage ourselves to be the best of Instructors, Trainers, Educators and Administrators in our Aviation Industries. The general principle and spirit of this Assembly

beckons on us all to make the most prudential use of scarce resources allocated to us to gain maximum result.

It cannot be overemphasized that governments across the continent are unanimous in agreement that our Institutions conserve huge capital flight that would have been expended in foreign trainings of our students and personnel. All hands must therefore be on deck for all our institutional curricular, capital and human infrastructure and certifications in order to measure up to the required standards and global best practice. We must all churn the minutest temptation to cut corners, lower standards and compromise safety which will ultimately put the industry at jeopardy.

Permit me to inform us that as your host, the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria is resolutely committed to being the vanguard for the enthronement of excellence in all facets of our trainings and operations. With the very generous disposition of our different Arms of government as coordinated by our inspiring Minister of Aviation (Princess Stella Adaeze Oduah OON) we are irreversibly on course towards making our College one of the best in the world. Ours is a one desk stop training centre where all aspects of Aviation learning are run very effectively and conclusively too. Recently, we have acquired some numbers of Helicopter planes to diversify into Helicopter pilot training. This is to assuage the yearning needs of our oil companies, Search and Rescue Operators and other stake holders in the industry. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, indeed our provision of quality trainings in Africa to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a sinequanon for safer skies and ground operations worldwide. Training institutions in Africa must therefore arise to take its place of pride as significant players in the international arena. This occasion is no doubt very unique as it speaks to the core of our corporate existence, experiences and challenges. I therefore encourage us all once again to participate effectively and objectively in the actualization of AATO's abiding objectives, mission and vision. Welcome to Abuja Nigeria. I wish you all a wonderful deliberation and thank you.