

OPENING SPEECH BY THE SPECIAL HONOUR, HEAD OF SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION,

ALHAJI BUKAR GONI AJI OON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN AVIATION TRAINING ORGANISATION (AATO) ASSEMBLY HELD ON THE 10TH APRIL, 2013 AT THE NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA NIGERIA

- Distinguished and Honourable Members here present;
- The Honourable Minister of Aviation
- The President of AATO interim council
- The ICAO Regional Director
- Delegates of AATO Constitutive Assembly
- Captains and Stakeholders of the Aviation Industry
- Members of the Diplomatic Corp
- Members of the media
- Very distinguished ladies & gentlemen.

It is my pleasure and privilege to be in this corporate gathering of global players and stakeholders in the Aviation Industry. I am particularly delighted at the potential of impact benefits and cross fertilization of ideas that abounds this Assembly. The African Aviation Training Organisation (AATO) have no doubt stamped its imprint on the annals of the Aviation industry in the continent of Africa and the world. Your vision of creating a safer African Skies through high quality standardized Aviation training is very commendable and enjoins concerted efforts and commitment towards bringing it to success especially here in Nigeria. AATO as the engine and production house of the Industry has the qualities that goes a long way in determining the safety of the air transport. The Afro-centric nature of AATO being the voice and champion of the African training centres shows your commitment such that all your training centres complies and meets global best practice towards maintaining the highest ICAO standards in all their spheres of trainings. This could be done by encouraging bi-lateral cooperation among members through shared competencies, experience and comparative advantages.

The sheer magnitude of untapped potentials and resources in Nigeria as a giant of Africa is a veritable destination for investors in the Aviation and allied transport sectors, with due Consideration to her large population and strategic location, we must therefore prepare and position ourselves to maximize this impending and explosion boom in the global market.

I am deeply convinced of the readiness of all parliaments across the continent of Africa to quickly domesticate all ICAO laws for easy implementation and adherence. The ball is now in your court to champion it at the ICAO assembly by the enactment of laws and policies of utmost benefit to the continent.

Permit me once again to urge you to be vigilant in entrenching your organisation's noble cause. Do not relent at the international fora in giving vent to the yearnings and aspirations of member countries of AATO, by this you would be succeeding in your commitment towards the enthronement and sustainability of excellence at all centres of Aviation in Africa. The Nigerian centre seems to have taken a cue as evidenced in the transformation taking place across the different Airports and standardised training in the country. I give due commendation to the Honourable Minister of Aviation in Nigeria for epitomizing the transformation agenda of the present administration. I therefore wish you all very fruitful session as you brainstorm on issues of common benefit to Nigeria, African region and the world international air transport.

I will like to pulse and say a big welcome to you all in Abuja.

To the glory of God and for the good of mankind, I take the singular honour and privilege to declare this Assembly open.

Thank you!

Alhaji Bukar Goni Aji OON
Head of Service of the Federation