

**SPEECH BY CAPTAIN GILBERT KIBE, DIRECTOR GENERAL, KCAA  
DURING THE OPENING THE ICAO LOSS OF CONTROL – IN FLIGHT  
(LOC-I) SYMPOSIUM HELD ON MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE, 2015 AT THE  
LAICO REGENCY HOTEL, NAIROBI**

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Mr. James Macharia, Ag. Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure;

Mr. Barry Kashambo, ICAO Regional Director;

Acting Executive Director, Civil Aviation Safety & Security Oversight Agency of the East African Community (CASSOA - EAC);

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to be here with you today during this very critical symposium. I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to Kenya.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Aviation in Africa supports over 7 million jobs and generates over USD 70 billion in economic activity. This industry is an important component of the African economy. With over five of the fastest growing economies in the world, aviation in Africa is expected to grow at a healthy rate.

Currently, aviation in Africa is expanding at a very significant rate with good traffic growth, increased aircraft ownership and improved infrastructure being achieved across the continent. Indeed, Africa is the next frontier for aviation business especially with the continued economic growth driven by new discoveries of natural resources and improved fiscal policies embraced by various African countries.

With all these good tidings happening within the continent, the opportunities available in aviation and allied businesses are many. This,

therefore calls for focus in developing more infrastructure including new airports, aircrafts and the support systems that facilitate civil aviation business. However, as we grow our respective aviation subsystems at State level, we must never forget safety.

Safety should always be paramount in everything we do. In fact, the major value proposition of air transport is its speed and safety level. We all know that aviation is the safest mode of transport in the world.

At this point, allow me to thank the AFI region States for according Kenya the opportunity to champion Emerging Safety Issues under the Regional Aviation Safety Group. It is under that arrangement that the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority and the ICAO ESAF office have organized this symposium to sensitize participants on Loss of Control in Flight and chart a way forward on how to handle this very important phenomenon.

Ladies & Gentlemen

As you may be aware, ICAO statistics for the last five years show that LOC-I accounts for highest fatality rate in aircraft accidents globally. With Africa being the next frontier in aviation, it is desirable that all emerging safety issues be well understood and adequately addressed before they end up as undesirable situations. This symposium therefore is a very important forum to air operators, civil aviation authorities, aircraft manufacturers and the flying public, all of whom are represented here to discuss how best to mitigate this issue.

It must be said that as a first step to effectively tackle the challenges in aviation safety, there is a great need for all players i.e. CAA's, Operators, accident investigators to share safety critical information so that appropriate mitigations are undertaken to prevent accidents and incidents. This can then be followed by training of personnel in order to allow them to be adequately prepared to deal with these issues as and when they occur.

Currently, information sharing is not at the desired level with low reporting of incidents and accidents. It should be noted that the underlying reason the aviation is the safest mode of transport is because the information from past incidents and accidents have been used to favourably improve equipment, procedures and training of personnel. So it is imperative that we all share safety information in order to progress aviation safety.

Training is critical if we are to ensure what we learn from the safety information. However, for Africa training has become a challenge to its high cost mainly because it is conducted out of the continent. We must therefore utilize forums such as this to learn as much as we can and proactively deal with safety issues as we internally build capacity.

Ladies & Gentlemen

On behalf of Kenya Civil Aviation Authority and Kenya I would like to reaffirm our commitment to the course as RASG-AFI Champions in Emerging Safety Issues. We will continue to work closely with ICAO to support their initiatives on the region and globally.

I therefore foresee a fruitful deliberation and an outcome that is going to inform not only the way we in Africa address this issue but also set the standard for the rest of the world.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you a fruitful symposium and wish you a good time in Kenya.

Thank you.