CASSOA to Host Aviation Symposium in Commemoration of EAC 10th Anniversary

Details

Arusha, Tanzania; 14 September 2009: The East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat and Partner States Civil Aviation Authorities will host an aviation symposium themed Aviation – Linking EAC and the World Safely and Efficiently on 22 October 2009 at the Naura Springs Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania. The symposium is part of the many activities commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the East African Community.

The Executive Director of CASSOA, Mr Mtesigwa Maugo says “the main objective of the symposium is to engage the aviation stakeholders in the region to examine the role of aviation in the economic development as well as in deepening the integration of the EAC”.

He adds: “Prominent regional and international aviation players are expected to present papers and take part at the symposium. The symposium will explore safety compliance in the region. Indeed, the aviation industry faces challenges in meeting and maintaining the level of safety expected by the public as it continues to grow globally.

The challenges in Africa are enormous due to the fact that the statistics indicate accident rates above the global average. This leads to a perception that the aviation industry in Africa is unsafe regardless of the states or sub-regions involved. The International Civil Aviation Organisation, in its safety strategic objectives have set a target that by 2012, no one region should have accident rates more than twice the global average by end of 2011.

The economics of the industry and in particular the market access will be discussed during the symposium. In particular, the challenges and benefits of liberalised air transport services from both the regulators perspective and air operators’ perspective and also how aviation can be a tool for bringing together the East African Community and the international community will take a centre stage in the presentations.

Traditionally the aviation industry has been always a regulated industry, ranging from service delivery and output level, prices, as well as conditions on airline ownership and control. Recognising these limiting factors for the growth of the industry, Africa made a policy decision to guide the liberalisation of air transport service commonly known as the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD), enacted in 1999. The implementation of the Decision remains very limited. The EAC has been working with other regional economic communities (SADC and COMESA) in trying to implement the Decision.

A session panel discussion on the subject “Towards a liberalised air transport market” will highlight the initiatives undertaken by the region towards liberalised air transport services and also identify what needs to be done to create a conducive environment for the industry to effectively compete in both the regional and global markets and also contribute in the economic development of the region.