



Media Release

Cameroon joins the Single African Air Transport Market and to host the 51st AFRAA Annual General Assembly

Yaounde, Cameroon - 14th February 2019 The African Airlines Association Secretary General, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé accompanied by Camair-Co CEO Mr. Ernest Dikoum have held high level discussions with the Minister Deputy Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon Mr. Mohamadou Moustafa and other government stakeholders following the country's integration into the Single African Air Transport Market.

The country which becomes the 28th African state to join the Single Air Transport Market will host the 51st AFRAA Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Summit scheduled to take place from 24-26 November 2019 in Yaoundé.

Speaking at a joint press conference, Mr. Berthé expressed appreciation for the government of Cameroon's support to the development of aviation in the country. He applauded the government's commitment to the liberalization of African skies with their signing of the solemn commitment for the Single Air Transport Market (SAATM). "The Airline business cannot grow and thrive without market access – it is one of the critical factors for airlines business to succeed. With the liberalization of African skies for African carriers, the African airspace is poised for greater heights that will bring us closer to our common goal of an integrated and prosperous Africa," he said.

He highlighted various success factors for aviation in Africa and communicated the challenge of high taxes and charges in Africa which is among the main factors that have resulted in high cost of operations in the African Aviation industry.

"AFRAA urges airports to adhere to the International Civil Aviation Organization's principle of user consultation in the determination and fixing of charges and fees to ensure that they are commensurate with the level of service delivered"

He added that the industry can only thrive in an environment where air travel is made affordable and more Africans are able to travel thus all actors must ensure the environment is conducive to growth.

The 2019 President of AFRAA and CEO of Camair-Co, Mr. Ernest Dikoum on his part thanked AFRAA for the opportunity to host this major aviation event: "It is our pleasure and honor for us to host the 51st AFRAA Annual General Assembly and Summit in Cameroon which presents us with an excellent opportunity to strengthen aviation in the country and promote our tourism sector"

He warmly welcomed aviation stakeholders across Africa and internationally to travel to Yaoundé for the summit promising a memorable experience to delegates.

The 51st AFRAA AGA will be attended by Chairmen and CEOs from African airlines, representatives from key aviation bodies including ICAO, IATA, AFCAC, civil aviation authorities, airport companies, component suppliers, air navigation service providers as well as aircraft and engine manufacturers among others. Deliberations at the summit take stock of aviation milestones, plan the future for the development of African aviation and scope opportunities for growth.

Notes for Editors

About AFRAA

The African Airlines Association, also known by its acronym AFRAA, is a trade association of airlines from the member states of the African Union (AU). Founded in Accra, Ghana, in April, 1968, and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, the primary purposes of AFRAA are to foster commercial and technical co-operation among African airlines and to represent their common interests.

AFRAA membership of 40 airlines cuts across the entire continent and includes all the major intercontinental African operators. The Association members represent over 85% of total international traffic carried by African airlines.

Currently, the Chief Executive Officer of Camair-Co, Mr. Ernest Dikoum is the President of AFRAA.

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