

WELCOME SPEECH BY DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
KENYA AIRPORTS AUTHORITY MR. MATHEW WAMALWA
DURING KENYA TOURISM WEEK ON THURSDAY, 25TH SEPT
2008.

Honored Guests,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To all of you honored guests present today; I extend on behalf of the Kenya Airports Authority Board of Directors and the Management a warm welcome to Moi International Airport. Tourism week is an important part of our events calendar. We see this as an opportunity to appreciate the role our airports play in enhancing the growth of the tourism and travel sector. Moi International Airport is our second largest International Airport and is crucial to the success of the tourism industry at the Coast, which in turn is essential to the growth of this country's economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by giving you a brief overview of the Authority. Kenya Airports Authority is a Government wholly owned Parastatal body; established in May 1991 through an Act of Parliament, CAP 395. The Authority is charged with the responsibility of planning, designing, maintenance and operation of all aerodromes in Kenya. Under inspired

leadership, the Authority is transforming its airports to be customer oriented and to be at par with the best in continental Africa and the world.

I am glad to say that we are now is an established commercial organization that is no longer subsidized nor reimbursed by the Government. The main revenue base for Kenya Airports Authority remains its flagship airport of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport- Nairobi, the biggest and the busiest airport in the East and Central Africa region followed by Moi International Airport our tourism and charter Airport.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya Airports Authority contribution to the growth of the tourism industry is Vital. This is the entry point to Kenya and the first impression visitors will get of Kenya. Our Airports are a reflection of the country and therefore have to be seen in the best light possible. To achieve this we have embarked on projects that will greatly enhance the capacity and out look of our airports.

Jomo Kenyatta international Airport is been upgraded and once complete it will have ultra modern facilities and will be able to handle over 9 million passengers. Moi International Airport in Mombasa has also received a face-lift. The old Terminal has been rehabilitated to increase existing space to handle an addition five hundred thousand. In Kisumu Airport the contractor is already on ground and a new terminal and runway is expected to be complete in two years time. Plans are also in an advanced stage for the expansion and upgrading of Wilson and Kisumu Airport.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you can see, it is the desire of Kenya Airports Authority to ensure that Moi international Airport, and indeed all the airports in the country provide premier airport services in the region on the basis of quality customer services and transport infrastructure. All the above projects will go a long way in ensuring impeccable services are given to our customers. The majority of these customers will fall within the tourism industries it is our hope that we will continue to work together to improve service delivery and in turn ensure the growth of the tourism sector

Thank you.