

WELCOME SPEECH, SKAL LUNCH AT HOLIDAY INN ON WEDNESDAY,  
14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009

The Co-sponsor Holiday Inn

Honored guest

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend on behalf of the Kenya Airports Authority, Board of Directors and the Management a warm and fraternal welcome to this lunch. It's indeed an honor and privilege to continue this partnership with the SKAL family.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya Airports Authority contribution to the growth of the tourism industry is immense and crucial. 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 continually been expanding and improving our airports. We recently celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony of the expansion and rehabilitation of Kisumu International Airport.

As the fourth busiest airport in Kenya, Kisumu Airport has expanded over the years to attract eight airlines up from two, three years ago. Passenger numbers have also gone up from 70,000 in 2005 to 240,000 in 2008 and we project that these figures could hit 300,000 yearly when the project is completed. With this continuous growth of passengers it was imperative that this massive investment of Kshs. 3.0 Billion was committed so as to effectively manage and improve the services in this region. The scope of work that this expansion entails is; the existing runway will be renovated and extended from the current 2km to 3 kilometers. It will also be widened from 30meters to 45meters. New ground lighting and approach lights will also be installed. The airport parking bays also referred to as the apron will be extended by 40,000 square meters

and finally we will add a new airport terminal building. This new one storey terminal building of about 3,000 square meters will be equipped with state -of -the -art baggage handling facilities complete with natural ventilation and lighting. A 3,500 square meters car park will be constructed, capable of handling 200 cars at one time. And in order to ensure a constant electricity supply, we will construct a new power substation

When completed, the Kisumu Airport will be upgraded to international status capable of handling larger aircraft. Planes such as Boeing 737, DC9 and Airbus A310 will be able to land here.

In conclusion I wish to emphasise that the key to our corporate strategy has been the improvement of our major airports in the country so that they are better able to handle the ever-increasing local and international passenger traffic, meet increasingly stringent international airport security benchmarks and provide both passengers and other key stakeholders with world-class experience at these airports. 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.