



SPEECH OF THE COMMISSIONER/CEO OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BUREAU (AIB), ENGR. AKIN OLATERU AT THE MEDIA BRIEFING ON THE INAUGURATION OF SAFETY RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 04 APRIL, 2018 AT AIB SAFETY HOUSE, MURTALA MUHAMMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LAGOS.

Gentlemen of the Press,

It is my pleasure to welcome you once again to our office here in Lagos. I thank you sincerely for honouring our invitation as always.

The main purpose of today's event is to inaugurate a specially constituted committee on the effectiveness of the safety recommendations made by the bureau from inception.

This becomes necessary in order to consolidate the remarkable efforts being made by this management since assumption of office to extend the frontiers of aviation safety, not only in Nigeria but globally.

We inherited 27 outstanding accident reports out of which we have published 10 as at the end of 2017. These reports generated 35 safety recommendations. We hope to release another set of six accident reports before the end of May, 2018.

For accident investigation to be relevant and effective, it must be thorough, impartial and timely. Timeliness is of essence. You would recall that we recently released three preliminary reports of two serious incidents and an accident shortly after they occurred.

Safety recommendations are as critical as the investigation itself as it is the lever used to effect safety changes and improvements in the aviation industry.

ICAO also describes Accident Investigation as 'a process conducted for the purpose of accident prevention, which includes the gathering and analysis of information, the drawing of conclusions, including the determination of causes and, when appropriate, the making of safety recommendations.'

The purpose of accident investigation, which is to improve aviation safety cannot be achieved if our recommendations are not found to be effective by the stakeholders. The recommendations guide the regulators, operators, the Ministry and other stakeholders in the industry.

It is noteworthy that the Bureau's accident investigation and safety recommendations have recorded positive impacts in the national and global aviation arena.

Our investigations into the Bristow Helicopter crash, which occurred in Lagos on August 12, 2015 led to the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Sikorsky, the aircraft manufacturer taking global safety actions.



Diamond Aircraft Manufacturer also took safety action following our investigations into the serious incident involving Diamond DA 42 with registration number 5N-BKS, which occurred in Benin in July 2012.

AIB during investigations, identifies a lot of hazards that sometimes may not be related to the particular occurrence under investigation but work with the operators to resolve them. It is noteworthy to state that safety recommendations/ safety alerts can be made at any stage of the accident investigation and we do not have to wait until final report is released.

While we appreciate that our safety recommendations have recorded positive impacts locally and globally, we found it imperative to holistically review the effectiveness of all the recommendations with a view to enhancing aviation safety to the benefits of all air travellers.

It is with this background that AIB decided to review our recommendations from inception totaling 120 and measure the level of their effectiveness. Members of this committee are drawn from AIB, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), the Ministry of Transportation and the industry.

To ensure a balance and objectivity, the Honourable Minister of State for Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika has approved the appointment of experienced industry experts as consultants to the committee. They are Capt Kiddie Dare and Engr. Gbolahan Abatan.

The committee will engage the affected stakeholders on the effectiveness of the safety recommendations addressed to them and submit their report to AIB management, which will work on it for the benefits of the industry.

The responsibility for enforcing safety recommendations lies with NCAA and this may explain why there are four nominees on this committee from the agency. This exercise is therefore to complement their efforts and enhance the industry's capacity to improve safety.

I therefore inaugurate this committee for the benefit of the aviation industry in Nigeria and the entire world.

Thank you all.