



Statement by the Namibia Airports Company (NAC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Bisey /Uirab at the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Air Connect Namibia Project Launch on 12 March 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies,

Distinguished invited guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen.

A very warm welcome to you all to being here this morning to witness this historic moment of collaboration by key players in the strategic ecosystem of aviation and tourism.

In line with the mandate and mission of the NAC to ensure enhanced connectivity to Namibia, the **Air Connect Namibia** project has been initiated together with the key stakeholders in this room today.

The purpose of the Project is to increase direct air access in-and-out of Namibia to the rest of the world, particularly via its international airports, with an initial focus on Hosea Kutako International Airport. The Project aims to improve the country's competitiveness and to support growth sectors, making it a stronger tourism and business location for foreign direct investment, stimulating economic growth and job creation. It aims to do this by increasing direct air access between the region and international markets through the establishment of new international routes - whilst retaining our existing partnerships - at the airport.

Namibia Airports Company, as the sole custodian of Namibia's eight national commercial airports announces

the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties here present, which recognizes common interests between the parties, as well as capitalizing on opportunities of collaboration in the aviation sector.

We are pleased to be signing this agreement and we place great value and importance in maintaining and exchanging knowledge and experience on efficient, sustainable and economic development of our respective portfolios.

The **Air Connect Namibia** Project has the following two implementation processes:

1. The Project has been derived from the Namibia Aviation and Connectivity Forum held in Nov 2022. The Forum was held to re-imagine the Namibian Aviation sector as one that contributes to the country's economic development and growth. Air Service Development was identified as one of the topics identified by the Forum as

playing a significant role in development and re-imagining of the sector.

2. Target markets and carriers were identified in 2022, with initial carrier engagements taking place at Routes World 2022. This was followed-up by the NAC partaking in a European Carrier Tour where carriers were engaged at their operation headquarters. During Routes World 2022, data-led business cases were developed for engagement with carriers servicing the United Arab Emirates, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Qatar, Ethiopia and Turkey.

As NAC, we deem it necessary to bring these parties together in the interest of creating prosperity in our aviation and tourism markets, and sharing the achievements of development in our cooperation.

This agreement looks at continuous cooperation and collaboration between the parties as a necessity to maintain and develop a compatible and efficient air transport system and reciprocal destinations experience for the passengers, for both leisure and business.

I thank you for your attention.