



## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### STATEMENT BY MR. JAMES W. MACHARIA CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON CATEGORY ONE STATUS

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delighted to inform you that Kenya has today been granted Category 1 Status by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States of America. This marks a major milestone in the growth and development of civil aviation in Kenya and East Africa. The granting of this status paves the way for Kenyan registered air operators to operate directly to the United States.

The Category 1 status is based on an FAA assessment of the safety oversight capabilities of the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority. Kenyan air carriers will now have to secure the requisite Department of Transportation (DOT) approvals to establish services to the United States. This means that Kenya Airways and other interested operators can fly directly from Kenya to US once the necessary approvals and Last Point of Departure (LPD) are granted.

Following the attainment of Category 1 status, Kenya Airways will immediately apply for approval to codeshare with US Airlines while concurrently pursuing approval for direct flights.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government of Kenya has invested in the expansion of airport infrastructure in particular at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), which now boasts a new Terminal 1A both for arrivals and departures. We are also in the process of making further improvements to JKIA's other terminals. The Airport has been undergoing regular assessment by the US, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for purposes of assessment as a Last Point of Departure (LPD) and we are requesting another assessment in June this year at which point we hope to attain LPD status.

With this development, we can expect that soon there will be faster air transport allowing movement of people between the two countries and resulting in a significant reduction in the amount of time taken for horticultural produce and flowers from Kenya to access the US markets. In addition, the new status is expected to have a positive impact on tourism and promotion of trade and commerce between the two Countries.

**JAMES MACHARIA, EGH  
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