



KENYA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATION

Safe Skies

30th August 2018

SAFETY ISSUES THAT HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE ON-GOING INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY ETHIOPIAN AIR TRAFIC CONTROLLERS

The Kenya Air Traffic Controllers Association is deeply concerned with a number of serious safety issues that have been noted over the last few days as a result of the on-going industrial action by the Ethiopian Air traffic controllers. Some of safety concerns are as enumerated hereunder;

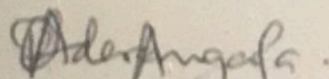
1. Letters of agreement between Addis Ababa and Nairobi on co-ordination procedures are not being followed. Flights inbound Nairobi from Addis Ababa are calling Nairobi Control without prior estimates, with the possibility of creating serious air-misses with known traffic at the transfer point.
2. There have been several incidences of loss of standard separation between aircraft at the point of transfer between Addis Ababa and Nairobi due to wrong or no estimates from Addis Ababa.
3. There has been one serious TCAS RA between Ethiopian Airlines Flight (ETH858), B737 and another aircraft, a Moonflower B763 (NOS252), both maintaining FL360 with no prior co-ordination and no estimates from Addis Ababa control.
4. The Addis Ababa airspace is currently being manned by retired controllers who do not have current validation, have no understanding of the airspace, do not know the co-ordination procedures, are overwhelmed, are too slow and can neither pass nor copy estimates correctly.
5. Nairobi ACC is now overwhelmed because they have to pass one estimate even more than five times to the Addis Ababa 'controllers' who are unable to copy correct estimates.
6. The few estimates passed to Nairobi by Addis Ababa are in most cases wrong, the aircraft call signs are wrong, the aircraft types on the estimates are wrong and sometimes even the destinations as passed are wrong.
7. Aircraft are entering the Kenyan airspace from Addis Ababa at Flight levels that are different from those passed by those manning the Addis Ababa airspace.



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8. Some flights originating from Addis Ababa are entering the Nairobi airspace with wrong flight levels. Some eastbound flights are coming in with westbound flight levels while some westbound flights have eastbound levels; increasing chances of serious air-misses.

These are some of the serious safety issues that we continue to experience in the airspace as a result of the stand-off between the Ethiopian air traffic controllers and their management. It is our considered opinion that the stand-off threatens aviation safety in the region and that aircraft operating in and out of Addis Ababa airspace are in grave danger as the situation continues to deteriorate. We urge the concerned parties to find a lasting solution to the issues they have before it is too late. We urge all stakeholders to do everything within their abilities to ensure that whatever issues the Ethiopian controllers have with their management is solved in an environment of give-and -take so that normal operations can be restored in the Addis Ababa airspace.


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