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KQ now eyes more passenger traffic with new Emirates deal

▶ Passengers of both airlines will access more destinations with a single ticket.

▶ Kenya Airways passengers can now access 23 destinations, connecting through Dubai.

MACHARIA KAMAU, NAIROBI

Kenya Airways (KQ) has entered into an interim partnership with Emirates, which will offer passengers access to new destinations on the networks of the two airlines with a single ticket.

The new pact will see Emirates' passengers access 28 destinations in Africa currently on KQ's network connecting through Nairobi.

KQ's passengers will also access destinations on the Emirates network, especially in the Middle East and Asia through its Dubai hub.

The new deal could help KQ grow passenger traffic on its route network to other African countries.

"Emirates customers will now be able to fly to 28 destinations on the Kenya Airways network using Nairobi as the gateway to destinations such as Nampula (Mozambique), Bangui (Central African Republic), Bujumbura (Burundi), Kigali (Rwanda), Dzaoudzi (Mayotte), Lubumbashi, Kinshasa (DR Congo), Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Juba (South Sudan), Zanzibar, among many other regional points across Africa," said the two carriers in a joint statement Monday.

"Additionally, as part of a bilateral interline arrangement, Emirates passengers travelling via Dubai can also book a single ticket itinerary from or to Mombasa, one of the most popular leisure destinations in Kenya."

KQ passengers travelling from Nairobi and Mombasa will now access the Emirates' network and connect through Dubai to 23 destinations in West and South Asia, the Far East, the Indian Ocean and Middle East.

"Kenya is a strategic gateway in our Africa network, and this new interline agreement will enhance connectivity for Emirates' customers and provide them with more travel choices across the continent. We look forward to deepening our relationship with Kenya Airways, offering greater network opportunities and improving connections for both of our customers," said Emirates Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim.

Emirates operates 14 weekly flights between Nairobi and Dubai.

KQ currently operates ten weekly flights between Nairobi and Dubai and recently launched direct flights between Mombasa and Dubai. It operates four weekly flights on the new route.

"This partnership will provide the ideal gateway for our customers as we seek to increase



KQ's passengers will now access destinations on the Emirates network, especially in the Middle East and Asia through its Dubai hub. [file:Standard]

our connectivity between Africa and the Middle East through Emirates' hub in Dubai. Partnerships like these are key in aviation as they take advantage of mutual scale and efficiencies to provide customers with more seamless travel options," said KQ Chief Commercial and Customer Officer Julius Thairu.

The national carrier has been seeking strategic partnerships with other carriers. In April this year, it revived an interline

agreement that it had with China Southern Airlines, which was suspended in April 2020.

The deal will enable KQ to increase its reach in China and Asia while enabling China Southern to increase its footprint in Africa.

It plans to get into a possibly bigger partnership with South African Airways (SAA).

The two carriers signed a partnership framework in 2021 that is expected to see them form a Pan-African airline.

Working together will enable them lower travel costs and improve connectivity within Africa. The carriers have also said there are plans to onboard another airline, preferably a West African carrier.

When they signed the partnership framework, the two airlines noted that their partnership was a critical step to the realisation of both the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) initiatives.

There are expectations that the two initiatives will be key in increasing air connectivity on the continent boosting trade, and tourism while promoting the growth and value of air transport in Africa.

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Aviation

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DESTINATIONS

EMIRATES' passengers access in Africa currently on KQ's network connecting through Nairobi.

Nairobi to host energy summit for the youth

SKILLS

The Youth Energy Summit (YES!) will return for its second edition in Nairobi next week as it seeks to boost skills, connections and business readiness of future African energy leaders.

Hosted by EnergyNet in conjunction with the Africa Energy Forum, the inaugural YES! gathering in Brussels in 2022 emphasised the significance of early career professionals, entrepreneurs, students and educators in accelerating access to reliable energy across Africa.

This year, thanks to a growing list of key partnerships across corporates, foundations, NGOs, universities and sector initiatives, YES! has a chance to showcase its credentials between June 20-23.

It is an opportunity for early career professionals and students to seek guidance from educators, entrepreneurs and energy experts as they learn both soft and technical skills.

Among partner organisations supporting the summit is the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) who join in 2023 as the event's first foundational partner.

"Young entrepreneurs are often excluded from all aspects of the energy transition value chain, and they face disproportionate barriers to educational opportunities, project finance, and decent jobs, particularly those in emerging and developing economies where access is compounded by additional development challenges," said GEAPP vice president for Africa Joseph Nganga.

"To meet ambitious global goals of hundreds of millions of green jobs by 2030, it is urgent that young people are trained and supported now to access opportunities and accelerate growth in the renewables sectors as they seek opportunities in the workforce."

[Correspondent]

MANUFACTURING State steps up county industrial parks plan

The Trade ministry has come up with strategies for rollout of county aggregation and industrial parks.

With 14 counties already working on the project, it is expected to create employment for 10,000 people per county every month with small enterprises as their main target.

Trade Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria presented a 10-point plan on the industrial parks during a preparatory meeting in Nairobi on Monday.

He urged investors to start manufacturing at the parks. [Agnes Maluki]