

Travel |

KQ battles flight disruptions on bad weather

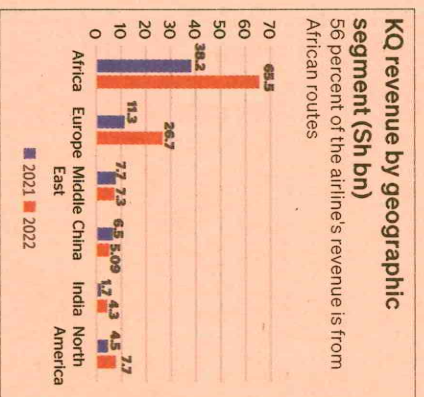
Bonface Otieno

A shortage of aircraft and bad weather has resulted in flight cancellations and delays at Kenya Airways (KQ), hurting the carrier's efforts to keep up with rising demand for travel after the world opened up from Covid restrictions.

The airline says poor weather has forced some of its flights to turn back or divert into unplanned routes while some of its aircraft are undergoing unscheduled technical maintenance, forcing it to cancel or delay some of its flights.

This means that KQ, as the airline is known by its international code, will have to forego revenue and compensate passengers in the form of accommodation.

Chief executive Allan Kilavuka said the airline is working round the clock to restore normalcy in the flight sched-



ule, an exercise expected to end before Friday.

"The main cause of flight delays and cancellations is due to bad weather resulting in diversions. A number of our aircraft are also undergoing unscheduled technical maintenance," he told the *Business Daily* yesterday.

"We are working round the clock to restore normalcy in the flight schedule and apologise for any inconvenience caused. Normal operations are expected to be restored on Thursday, July 6, 2023," he said.

Mr Kilavuka said three aircraft undergoing unscheduled technical maintenance returned to service on July 3, boosting its efforts to see it resume normal operations by today.

Even though he remained non-committal on the flights that had been cancelled or delayed by KQ in the last week when the problem started, an independent spot check by the *Business Daily* reveals that 10 KQ flights were either cancelled or delayed on Monday alone, including a flight to Accra and Dakar that was delayed by six hours on Monday.

A flight to Madagascar was delayed by four hours the same day, while the carrier also delayed a flight to Johan-

nesburg by eight and a half hours.

The national carrier also delayed a flight to Harare by 14 hours, one more to Lusaka in Zambia by nine-and-a-half hours and a flight to Mumbai in India delayed by three-and-a-half hours.

The flights were from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi.

Two more flights to Mombasa were delayed on Monday.

The shortage of aircraft and bad weather also forced KQ to cancel a flight to Johannesburg on Monday. It also cancelled a flight to Paris.

Sources familiar with the details said flight cancellations, especially for passengers heading to European, destinations come with a heavy financial burden to the airline as the carrier must pay Sh92,000 (€600) per affected passenger in a refund.
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KCB Foundation, UN Kick off electric mobility project

Head of KCB Foundation Caroline Wanjeri (left) with KCB Group CEO Paul Russo (second left), flag off Transport Cabinet secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and Trade PS Abubakar Hassan Abubakar during the commissioning of the first e-mobility project by KCB Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research at Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi yesterday. LUCY WANJIRU



A few ChatGPT competitors, including Google's Bard chatbot, have been launched in the past few months. OpenAI also released the ChatGPT app on the iOS system in May, which could sap some traffic from its website.

Some also tie the usage change to the summer break for schools, as fewer students look for help with homework.

The recent slowdown in growth might help control the cost in running ChatGPT, which requires intensive computing power to answer queries.

Corner office |

Only 10pc of start-ups in Kenya have female chief executive officers

Edna Mwenda

Only about 10 percent of Kenyan start-ups have female chief executives, highlighting gender disparity in the African tech startup ecosystem, a new report shows.

The latest Disrupt Africa report dubbed 'Diversity Dividend: Exploring Gender Equality in the African Tech Ecosystem' shows that only 11.2 percent of Kenyan startup CEOs are

women and 16.6 percent are female co-founded.

Out of 331 Kenyan startups surveyed, 55 were co-founded by women and 37 had female chief executives.

"Generally, in markets with enough tracked startups to discern any trends, the smaller ecosystems outperform the larger ones from a diversity perspective, with greater ratios of female leaders in markets such as Zambia, Rwanda, Tunisia and Senegal than

in traditional hotspots such as South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt and Kenya," read the report in part.

In South Africa with 521 startups identified, 71 were founded by women and 46 were female-headed.

Nigeria followed with 502 out of which 83 or 16.5 percent had women founders and 10.8 percent had female CEOs.

"This report highlights the importance of diversity in the industry, par-

ticularly the need to address the historic disparity," read the report in part.

"39.6 percent of venture capitalists (VCs) investing in African startups between 2022 and April 2023 have at least one female founder or general partner or managing partner. Among the Africa-based VCs active, this number goes up to 47.8 percent while 6.1 percent of angels investing in this period are women."

The number of female angel inves-

tors in the period sampled from 2022 through to the end of April 2023 was nine out of 148 pundits.

"This means that only 6.1 percent of angels actively investing in Africa are women," said Disrupt Africa in the report.

An angel investor provides initial seed money for startup businesses, usually in exchange for ownership equity in the company.
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Analytics |

ChatGPT posts first ever monthly dip in June

REUTERS

ChatGPT, the wildly popular AI chatbot launched in November, saw monthly traffic to its website and unique visitors decline for the first time ever in June, according to analytics firm Similarweb.

Worldwide desktop and mobile traffic to the ChatGPT website decreased by 9.7 percent in June from May, while unique visitors to ChatGPT's website dropped 5.7 percent. The amount of time visitors spent on the website was also down 8.5 percent. Similarweb data shows.

OpenAI did not immediately respond to request for comment.

ChatGPT set off a frenzied use of generative AI in daily tasks from writing to coding and reached 100 million monthly active users in January, two months after its launch.

It is the fastest-growing consumer application ever, and now boasts over 1.5 billion monthly visits, one of the top 20 websites in the world. For instance, ChatGPT has far surpassed Bing, the search engine run by Microsoft which uses OpenAI's technology.

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