

# TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY



## **PAPER ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A FEE ON ADVANCED PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM (APIS) AND ELECTRONIC BORDER CONTROL SYSTEM (eBMC) FOR INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORTS IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The United Nations (UN) Security Council and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have mandated all countries to implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019) involving the advance screening of travelers when they are still in their countries of origin. In 2018, Annex 9 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (**The Chicago Convention**) established that implementation of Advance Passenger Information (API) system shall be a standard. This is a system where passenger information as provided in the travel documents are forwarded to the destination state prior to flight departure. This enables administrations of the destination State to decide on admissibility of every passenger before commencement of the flight.

The requirement is provided under Standard 9.7 of the Annex stating that “Each Contracting State shall establish an Advance Passenger Information (API) system”. The requirement is also provided under Annex 17 of the Convention.

Following this mandatory requirement which is currently auditable under Annex 17, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) has decided to implement the systems in the country. It is worth noting that in 2023 the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) was conducted by ICAO for URT and the result indicated that URT acquired 86.94 percent, ranked the fourth in Africa. However, as a state we were failed by protocol questions related to API/PNR implementation. The implementation of these systems is therefore important.

The introduction of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) systems will be complemented by electronic Border Control System (eBMC) including but not limited to; The introduction of e-visa and Travel Authorization System for pre-arrival vetting and streamlined visa processing; Integrated Immigration Control System (ICS) to enable seamless entry/exit control and integration with national databases; Intelligent Information Management System (IIMS) for data analytics, profiling and case management.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

On understanding the importance of complying with UN resolutions and ICAO standards, of recent, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has launched a team to study on modernization of border security project designed to strengthen national border control and enhance the traveler experience. This initiative features an integrated suite of subsystems (including API/PNR) to provide comprehensive air passenger security with a streamlined immigration processing.

Given the cost associated with implementation of this project including but not limited to the cost of data processing, system modernization and regulatory compliance including data privacy standards and cyber security enhancements, reliance on government financing is costly and may not be sustainable. It is therefore proposed that funding shall be sourced from the international arrivals at the airports in the URT.

## **3. RATIONALE OF IMPLEMENTING APIS AND ELECTRONIC BORDER CONTROL SYSTEM (eBMC) IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Government security agencies require passenger information in advance of the arrival for proactive intervention. Having information in advance will enable assessment of potential security risks and facilitation of boarder clearance. Besides initial cost associated with the projects, introduction of (APIS) and Electronic Border Control System (eBMC) will lead to the following benefits:

- a) enhance pre-arrival risk assessment by detecting and prevent terrorism and transnational crime
- b) enhance immigration controls and enforcement,
- c) improve travel facilitation and reduce processing time.

However, besides its importance, systems implementation faces fiscal challenges. Sustainable funding sources must therefore be established in advance of the implementation.

## **4. SUBMISSION BY THE GOVERNMENT**

The Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) and Electronic Border Control System (eBMC) are a critical security and border control mechanism that enhances aviation safety, immigration compliance, and national security. To ensure sustainability, efficiency, and continuous improvement of APIS operations, it is proposed that a fee be introduced to international arriving passengers for utilizing the system.

Introducing the fee for APIS/eBMC ensures the system remains efficient, secure, and financially sustainable while distributing costs fairly among stakeholders.

The fee will ensure the long-term reliability of APIS/eBMC, providing continuous funding for maintenance, staff training, and operational improvements. This enables authorities to maintain high standards in border security and airline coordination.

In this respect, the government proposes for implementation of APIS/eBMC, which is beneficial to both stakeholders.

## **5. STATEMENT OF CASE**

- 5.1 The Authority is conducting the Inquiry in line with Section 45 of the Civil Aviation Act.
- 5.2 The TCAA Rules for making inquiry require the Authority to serve a Statement of Case to the public, indicating the purpose of inquiry, the time within which the submissions may be made and the form in which the submissions will be made.
- 5.3 Stakeholders and the general public are requested to give their views with regard to the above-mentioned submission, in line with the prevailing economic environment.
- 5.4 Interested members of the general public, including the stakeholders in the aviation industry and TCAA Consumer Consultative Council, are invited to give their submissions during public hearing and/or in writing to the Authority after the meeting indicating, with reasons, their views/comments on the proposed fee.
- 5.5 Please note that a Public Hearing Meeting is planned to be held at the Aviation House, Dar es Salaam on Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2025 from 0900 hours. For ease of planning, pre-registration is encouraged; this shall be done through a portal provided on the Authority's website.
- 5.6 All comments should be forwarded to:  
  
Director General,  
Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority,  
Aviation House,  
Nyerere/Kitunda Road Junction, Banana Area,  
P.O Box 2819, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania  
Tel: (255 22) 2198100  
Fax: (255 22) 2844300
- 5.7 Should you have any queries regarding the consultation meeting, please, contact Mr. Wales Chiwawa on his e-mail address, [wales.chiwawa@tcaa.go.tz](mailto:wales.chiwawa@tcaa.go.tz) with a copy to [tcaa@tcaa.go.tz](mailto:tcaa@tcaa.go.tz) or cell phone No. +255 784 474 727/718 052 052.

Issued by:

Director General

Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority.

16 June 2025