CORPORATE NEWS

Jambojet plans to start African flights in Dec

AVIATION The airline has leased a 78-seater Bombardier Q400 from Ilyushin Finance Co

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3.2BN SHILLINGS

Cost of the aircraft which Jambojet acquired from a Moscow-based leasing company last week

Jambojet has set a December target for launching international operations on 11 new routes after the budget carrier acquired a new aircraft from a Moscow-based leasing company as part of its expansion.

The firm leased a Q400 from Abu Dhabi Aviation in January to replace an older plane

The low-cost airline, a subsidiary of Kenya Airways, expects to receive regulatory approval to expand business beyond Kenya later this month, having fulfilled all conditions. Jambojet has applied to fly to Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Blantyre and Lilongwe in Malawi as well as to Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) among others.

To serve its domestic customers and the upcoming routes, Jambojet has leased a 78-seater Bombardier Q400 from Ilyushin Finance Co (IFC), with a second aircraft scheduled for delivery in November.

"I hope to get our air service licence (ASL) later this month. The moment we receive the second aircraft we will be ready to launch our regional routes," said Willem Hondius, Jambojet chief executive.

"We have fulfilled all that is required of us and I do not know which routes we shall start off with since this is subject to negotiations with our parent company Kenya Airways."

NEW ROUTES Travellers alight from a Jambojet plane in Kisumu. –FILE

Mr Hondius was speaking in Toronto, Canada, last Wednesday when receiving the new aircraft at Bombardier's factory.

The plane, which is valued at Sh3.2 billion, arrived in the country on Sunday and is scheduled to start operations tomorrow.

Jambojet flies to six routes in Kenya; from Nairobi to Mombasa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Lamu, Malindi and Ukunda.

The airline, which launched in 2014, has been in the market for new aircraft to serve the busy coastal routes, which were in December hit by flight delays and cancellations.

The firm leased a Q400 from Abu Dhabi Aviation in January to replace one of the older versions of the aircraft in its fleet and stabilise operations since another plane was out on maintenance.

"I hope to have between eight and 10 aircraft in the next five years. We shall keep to one aircraft type to keep maintenance costs low," said Mr Hondius.

"With the new planes our reliability will improve greatly. Whatever happened in December should never happen again."

CAK okays sale of Centum's 26.43pc stake in Kenya Wine

ACQUISITION The deal, estimated at Sh1 billion, raises Distell's share in Kwal to 52.43pc

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The Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) has approved the buyout of Centum's entire 26.43 per cent stake in State-owned Kenya Wine Agencies Ltd (Kwal) by South Africa distiller, Distell.

The deal, estimated at Sh1 billion, brings to 52.43 per cent foreign firm's ownership of the wines and other alcoholic beverages marketer.

Distell announced in April it had acquired Centum's entire 26.43 per cent stake in Kwal

CAK, through a gazette notice last Friday, gave the go-ahead for the transaction indicating that Distell's higher stake in Kwal will not negatively affect competition.

"...it is notified that the Competition Authority of Kenya has approved the proposed acquisition of an additional 26 per cent shareholding in Kwal Holdings East Africa Limited by Distell International Holdings Limited," said CAK director-general Wang'ombe Kariuki.

SPIRIT MASTERS Distell owns the Viceroy brand. –FILE

Distell, the owner of Amarula and Viceroy brands, announced in April it had acquired Centum's entire 26.43 per cent stake in Kwal for an unknown value.

"Spirits have been the fastest growing segment of Kenya's alcoholic beverage industry and growth is anticipated to remain robust," said Donovan Hegland, managing director at Distell Africa.

TREATMENT


WELLNESS A section of Kenyatta National Hospital. –FILE

Kenya eyes portal for medical tourists

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Public and private medical stakeholders are pushing for setting up of a central online information portal to market available specialised services to locals and attract foreign medical tourists.

The International Health Conference held in Nairobi heard that Kenya has diverse and unique services and specialist surgeons but lack of information leads to many paying high costs to Indian-based hospitals for services available locally.

Kenyatta National Hospital acting deputy director of Clinical Services Bernard Githae said renal services, equipment and specialists were available but many patients kept flying to India for the same.

"Kenyans continue to rely on oral doctor-to-doctor referrals for lack of a centralised information system to inform our people what individual hospitals offer, their costs and available surgeons.

"Some hospitals rely on the same medical specialists but costs differ based on the target market by individual hospitals," he said.

Vision 2030 Secretariat Director- General Julius Muia said the board would allocate some funds for the establishment of the portal and fund a survey to gauge local facilities' preparedness in terms of equipment and personnel.

"We need to identify the hospitals as per their specialty and competence.

"The study will help create a standard practice based on specialities to build training hubs for various ailments," he said.