

Press Release

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The Department of Civil Aviation had organized an open gathering for all Airport staff on the issue of the privatisation project of the airport. The workshop was headed by His Highness Eng. Salim bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Vice President of Civil Aviation and member of General Aviation Authority in the UAE, and by Mr. Mohammad Al Khuder, Manager of Civil Aviation. The discussion revolved around privatisation benefits for the staff and the new functioning of various departments of the airport.

His Highness mentioned that privatisation will departmentalise civil aviation in RAK in the next five years creating a group of airport sections which will include electronics, air service, cleaning, maintenance and cargo labors. Four companies submitted their proposals last year, and it was handed to RAK Aviation because of the economical benefits. "The RAK Airport is the first airport in the Middle East to privatize all its departments and operations", confirmed His Highness

During this meeting there was a discussion of the time frame needed to handing over the divided sections to the chosen heads of individual departments. The transformation period was from 20th April to 31st December 2006 to sort out all issues including staff jobs and transfers, airport properties including land, building, equipment, stores plus the air navigation systems. The completion of this task was slotted for Jan 2007.

His Highness assured everyone that the privatisation step was taken for everyone's benefit. The workshop had an atmosphere of transparency and open discussion which helped the staff to understand the need for this step.

Successively, there were a series of meetings with department heads working at the airport which included the police, customs, security, municipality and immigration to clarify the steps of the privatisation and its transforming period, where His Highness insisted on everyone's assistance and help to complete this task.

At the same time the Department of Civil Aviation had issued a statistics report on number of travelers, aviation and cargo activities of the airport and the sales of jet fuel for the last three month of the year 2005 in comparison with the year 2006. The number of passengers had risen by 73%, cargo activities showed an increase of 134%, commercial flights' activities was up by 41% and jet fuel sales rose by 81%.

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