

KRIMSON SUPPORTS NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICAN AVIATORS IN ADDIS ABABA

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As the aviation industry faces an increasingly challenging recruitment environment, Krimson, the Ethiopia-based flight support company, is playing its part to support education at a grass roots level. Dawit Lemma, Krimson CEO, is providing volunteer teaching services to students taking the Brevet d'Initiation Aéronautique (BIA) course at the Lycée Guébré-Mariam, an Ethio-French school teaching Francophone pupils from nursery up to high school age in Addis Ababa. The weekly delivery of the two-hour educational sessions are shared with industry colleague Pierre Lucas, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, UNHAS, Chief - Ethiopia.?

The class covers the fundamentals of aviation and aims to bring real-world experience to the academic studies. Upon successful completion of the one-year course, and passing of the standardized examination, students receive credit towards earning their private pilot license, PPL. The BIA, which was created in 1968, is certified by the French Ministry of Education. Each year some 3,500 high school students choose this optional curriculum as part of the French public education system. This is the second year the Lycée Guébré-Mariam has offered the course and when the six-strong group of 15- and 16-year old students sit their exams in May a total of 16 pupils will have completed the program.

The BIA course covers five main subjects in Aviation: weather and meteorology, navigation, flight dynamics, aircraft systems, and aviation history. An optional module in aeronautical English is also part of the curriculum. As a qualified pilot and aviation services provider, Lemma shares his aviation knowledge and uses personal anecdotes to showcase the diversity of aviation which helps the students understand the complexity of the industry. "It's a great honor to be supporting the next generation of aviators here in Africa," said Lemma. "It is well known that African economies are strengthening and consequently the need for aviation to support this growth will drive the need for more aviation professionals. Sharing our knowledge with the students is a real joy for us, and more importantly it helps them understand the practical reality of working in the aviation sector. The Lycée students represent many French-speaking countries including Switzerland, Cote D'Ivoire, France, as well as Ethiopia, so I've had to brush up on my French aviation terms too," said Lemma.

The colleagues provide their time voluntarily, bringing in aircraft instruments for students to handle and familiarize themselves with, occasionally teach together, and manage offsite trips for the students. The most recent of which was to visit the Ethiopian Airlines headquarters in Addis Ababa, which has an extensive aviation academy on site. "The children loved the trip. They are learning the foundations of aviation, but a visit to the Ethiopian Aviation Academy gave them the opportunity to see first-hand the high standards of professionalism maintained by the aviation industry here in Ethiopia," said Lemma. "It really inspired them, and it was great to witness that enthusiasm."

Krimson launched in 2014 to provide aviation services with integrity and excellence. Based at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport the team offers 24/7 support fulfilling a range of aviation services including ground handling, flight support, refueling, charter brokerage and aviation communications. Customers originate from around the world to take advantage of the local expertise in Ethiopia and across Africa.

Krimson offers full flight support, ground handling, charter brokerage and other aviation services within Ethiopia and East Africa to a range of aviation customers including commercial airlines, business aviation operators, and trip planning companies.

Led by Dawit Lemma, Swiss citizen of Ethiopian origins, the diverse team of aviation experts is committed to service excellence combined with care and discretion. Lemma, a qualified pilot, is also President of the ABAA Ethiopian Chapter and has been integral to the Association's

development. Krimson is a member of the African Business Aviation Association and the European Business Aviation Association.

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