NIGERIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Corporate Headquarters: Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Domestic Wing, Abuja.
Tel: +234 916 201 1222, +234 906 201 1226.

ALL OPERATORS LETTER

Ref: NCAA/DGCA/AOL/24/29

Date: 20th June 2025

To: All RPAS Operators

From: Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority

Attn: Accountable Managers/Chief Pilots

SUBJECT: PROHIBITION OF RPAS FLYING IN CONTROLLED AIRSPACE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION

It has come to the attention of the Authority that some RPAS Operators in Nigeria have been operating in controlled airspaces without the necessary authorization. Several Mandatory Ooccurrence Reports (MORs) submitted by some Air Operator Certificate holders indicate that some RPAS operators have been flying without informing the ATC posing as high risk to manned aircraft flying in the same region. These occurrences are prevalent in Lagos and Port Harcourt airspaces with a significant number especially in Port Harcourt due to low flying helicopter operations.

2. This letter serves as an official communication regarding the mandatory requirement for all RPAS Operators to inform Air Traffic Control (ATC) prior to flight operations.

3. Effective immediately, all RPAS Operators are **prohibited** from flying UAVs within controlled or restricted airspace without first notifying and obtaining clearance from the relevant ATC authorities in accordance with **Nig. CARs 21.9.6.32**. This directive is issued to ensure safety, prevent potential conflicts with manned aircraft, and maintain operational coordination within airspace zones.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

I. RPAS Operators must inform the appropriate ATC facility before conducting any operations within controlled airspace and coordinate for the appropriate NOTAM to be published if applicable.
II. As a follow up to item I above, Operators must obtain clearance from ATC before proceeding with their flight operations and maintain two-way radio communication throughout the operation.
III. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in significant safety risks, and non-compliance could lead to enforcement actions, including suspension or revocation of operational permissions.

4. We urge all RPAS operators to familiarize themselves with the applicable regulatory requirements and ensure that all pre-flight procedures are followed adequately. This communication serves as a reminder of the importance of operational transparency and airspace safety.

Engr Godwin G. Balang
Chairman FSG
For: Director General of Civil Aviation.