**STATEMENT OF PAUL NJOROGE**

GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS PAUL NJOROGE. ON MARCH 10, I WOKE UP TO SEE A BLOOMBERG ALERT ON MY PHONE THAT ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT ET302 HAS CRASHED. THE FLIGHT NUMBER WAS IN MY HEAD BECAUSE I KNEW THAT WAS THE FLIGHT I HAD BOOKED FOR MY FAMILY TO TRAVEL WITH. IT WAS LIKE A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE TO ME. I WANTED IT TO BE THAT THEY HAD MISSED THE FLIGHT. BUT MY BROTHER-IN-LAW CONFIRMED IT TO ME THAT MY ENTIRE IMMEDIATE FAMILY HAD PERISHED IN THE FLIGHT.

I LOST MY BELOVED WIFE CAROLYNE AND OUR THREE LITTLE CHILDREN, SIX-YEAR-OLD RYAN, FOUR-YEAR-OLD KELLIE, AND BABY RUBI, JUST NINE MONTHS OLD, IN THE CRASH OF THE MAX8 PLANE.  I WAS LEFT ALONE, TO LIVE AN EMPTY LIFE, WITH PAIN AND ANGUISH. MY LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

TO LOSE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY IN AN INSTANT IS SOMETHING THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HUMAN BEINGS TO COME TO TERMS WITH. BUT I AM BLESSED THAT I HAVE THE SANITY TO BE HERE TODAY. WE HAD OUR ENTIRE LIVES BEFORE US. WE LOOKED FORWARD TO YEARS AND YEARS OF HAPPY MEMORIES. MY WIFE AND I HAD MANY PLANS FOR OUR FAMILY; TO SEE OUR CHILDREN LIVE FULFILLING AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES. INSTEAD, I AM LEFT WITH NOTHING; WITHOUT A HOME. I HAVE NO HOME.

MY WIFE WAS A DEDICATED HOME-MAKER. SHE WAS A FULL-TIME MOM AND A FULL-TIME ACCOUNTANT. OUR CHILDREN RADIATED JOY AND HAPPINESS. RYAN WAS EXCEPTIONAL IN CLASS AND ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO PLAYING GAMES WITH ME. KELLIE WOULD SING EVERY DAY TO ME. RUBI WOULD DANCE TO THE TUNES OF KELLIE’S SINGING. WITH THEIR BRILLIANCE, I BELIEVE THAT OUR CHILDREN WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD.

MY WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE TRAVELLING FROM TORONTO TO NAIROBI. THE CHILDREN HAD NOT SEEN THEIR TWO GRANDFATHERS AND ONE OF THEIR TWO GRANDMOTHERS IN ALMOST TWO YEARS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME FOR RUBI TO BE WITH THE LARGER FAMILY. THEY WERE ALL EAGER TO GET THERE. BUT THEY NEVER MADE IT.

I STAY UP NIGHTS THINKING OF THE HORROR THAT THEY MUST HAVE ENDURED. AS PILOTS STRUGGLED TO KEEP THE PLANE FLYING FOR SIX MINUTES. THE TERROR THAT MY WIFE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH LITTLE RUBI ON HER LAP, OUR TWO CHILDREN BESIDES HER CRYING FOR THEIR DADDY, AND MY MUM-IN-LAW FEELING HELPLESS BESIDES HER. THE SIX MINUTES WILL FOREVER BE EMBEDDED IN MY MIND. I WAS NOT THERE TO HELP THEM. I COULDN’T SAVE THEM.

IT WAS UP TO BOEING AND THE OTHERS IN CHARGE TO SAVE THEM. WE PAID FOR A SAFE FLIGHT. INSTEAD, MY FAMILY AND OTHERS IN THAT PLANE HAVE SUFFERED A PROFOUND LOSS THAT CAN NEVER BE MENDED.

WE ARE HERE TO ENSURE THAT PLANES REMAIN FLYABLE AND SAFE FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS. THAT NO LIVES ARE LOST AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF PLANE MANUFACTURERS AND AVIATION REGULATORS. THAT NO ONE LEAVES THIS EARTH IN SUCH A TRAGIC AND PAINFUL MANNER.

NOBODY SHOULD GO THROUGH WHAT I AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH SINCE MARCH 10. I PRAY THAT GOD RESTS THEIR SOULS IN ETERNAL PEACE.